Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2011 with funding from
LYRASIS members and Sloan Foundation

http://www.archive.org/details/messenger2000149111farr

2004.046

Church of the Brethren January/February 2000 www.brethren.org

Messenger

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
GENERAL OFFICES
LIBRARY
ELGIN, ILLINOIS 60120

The Gifts of God for the People of God

ENVISION A WORLD
WHERE THE ENVIRONMENT
IS PROTECTED,
HUMAN DIGNITY
IS UPHELD,
AND THERE IS
NO VIOLENCE.

INVEST IN THAT VISION.

Introducing two no-load mutual funds that provide opportunities for long-term growth through socially responsive investing. You can invest in strong companies without compromising your core values. In fact, through investor advocacy, invested money can help influence positive change within established corporations. These mutual funds are subject to stock market fluctuations.

For more information including charges, expenses, and ongoing fees, you may request a prospectus by calling **1-877-7-WALDEN**. Read the prospectus carefully before investing or sending money.

STRONG INVESTMENTS WITH BRETHREN VALUES

WALDEN/BBT
SOCIAL INDEX FUNDS

The Investment Adviser for the funds is Walden Asset Management, a division of United States Trust Company of Boston, who receives a fee for their services. The Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust, Inc., serves as a consultant to the Funds' Adviser on issues concerning international peace and justice and is paid a fee directly by the Adviser for such services. BISYS Fund Services is the Funds' Distributor and is not affiliated with Walden Asset Management or Brethren Benefit Trust, Inc.

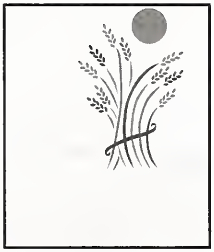
01/00

Messenger
Vol. 149, No. 1 January/February 2000 www.brethren.org

Editor: Fletcher Farrar
News: Walt Wiltschek
Subscriptions: Peggy Reinacher
Publisher: Wendy McFadden
Designer: Marianne Sackett
Advertising: Russ Matteson

The Gifts of God for the People of God

On the cover: The woman in the bright red wide-brimmed hat was one of my favorite people to visit. She lived all the years that I knew her in a nursing home. Lillian was young compared to many of the people who shared those halls. And she had multiple sclerosis. Lillian went places in a wheelchair because her legs didn't work so well. She had a hard time eating and it got more and more difficult to understand her words. Still, when I would stop to see her it often took some looking to find my friend. Lillian didn't let her troubles keep her down. She didn't miss many of the home's activities and many afternoons she was at her post folding laundry. She did the hand towels, bibs, and lap robes. And she did them with a cheerful heart and a ready smile.



It wasn't easy work, making her arms and hands cooperate to fold the linens. But Lillian was not going to give up her "job." She knew something that can be easily forgotten. Everything we have and every breath we take is a gift, a gift from God. And Lillian, a gracious recipient, didn't want the cycle to end with her. She wanted to share something with those around her. And so she folded laundry and shared her gift of laughter.

The gifts of God for the people of God can be so basic that we take them for granted. We expect that the air we breathe, the comfort we find in being a part of a circle of family and friends, the morning light, will just keep being there. With eyes of faith we can begin to see that the bread on the table is a gift of God, sometimes a symbol of God's very presence in our midst. With eyes of faith we can see that the sunrise signals another day to be lived to God's glory. With eyes of faith we discover that the gifts of God for the people of God are a delight to share.—Beth Sollenberger Morphew.

Beth Sollenberger Morphew, of Elgin, Ill., is the Congregational Life Team coordinator in Area 2. Cover art courtesy of Ecumenical Center for Stewardship Studies.

Departments

2 From the Publisher
3 In Touch
8 News
28 Letters
31 Turning Points
32 Editorial

Features

2 Women in ministry
Women have been given official full status as ministers in the Church of the Brethren since 1958, but statistics suggest that women are not being accepted as pastors and called to serve churches equally with men. What's wrong?

17 National Council of Churches
A delegation of 50 Brethren were in Cleveland 50 years ago to help launch the National Council of Churches of Christ. Another large delegation of Brethren went back to Cleveland in the fall to help the organization celebrate its jubilee. Howard Royer reports on the troubled but buoyant venture in ecumenicity called NCCC.

20 Nigerian student at Bethany
Meet Patrick Bugu, the first Nigerian student in several years to receive a visa to study at Bethany Theological Seminary.

22 Mid-Atlantic's new camp
Rustic is *not* a word used to describe the Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center. It is a beautiful new year-round facility, with a mission of changing lives for Christ.

24 On Earth Peace Assembly
OEPA marked 25 years of peacemaking witness with a five-day celebration in October. As with all good birthdays, the event prompted plans for a bright future.

26 Caring for disaster's children
Soon after EgyptAir Flight 990 crashed into the Atlantic, a call went out to the Church of the Brethren disaster child care team to respond. Here is Lydia Walker's firsthand report on what it's like to care for children who have lost so much.

From the Publisher

In all my years of traveling, I have never accumulated enough miles on any airline to get anything—no upgrades to first class, no free hotel rooms, no specials on rental cars, and no free tickets anywhere. I don't travel that much, and what flying I do seems to be spread out on a number of airlines.

Recently, one of those airlines sent a special offer to me and the other members of my family: We could cash in our miles for free magazine subscriptions. We had used this carrier to fly to Annual Conference in Long Beach, but doubted we'd be using it again anytime soon.

I paid little attention to the offer, but my husband scrutinized the list of magazines and ordered as many as it took to use up his miles. Within a few weeks the magazines began pouring in. On top of all the other reading material that accumulates around our house in guilt-inducing piles, we now receive a slew of other magazines, most of which I had never heard of before. That means we're all set to keep up with cars, handyman projects for the house, pop culture, and *Reader's Digest* jokes.

This offer was a reminder of the plethora of special-interest magazines that come and go. It's amazing how many magazines populate our newsstands, especially given the competition from electronic forms of communication. For every niche that emerges there quickly is a magazine to appeal to its devotees.

Our own MESSENGER is directed at one of the smaller niches—members of the Church of the Brethren. Unlike some of the other magazines (both small and large), however, it has been around for a very long time. Its history stretches back 149 years. In the early years, The *Gospel Messenger* and its predecessors sought to provide a forum for dialog and a means for bringing the far-flung Brethren together. We're even more far-flung today, and those tasks are no less important. In fact, in the cacophony of voices surrounding all of us, its message is startlingly simple: We belong together.

It's sort of like the reverse of that offer from the airline. In this case, subscribing to the magazine gets you *more* frequent-flyer points. And eventually all that traveling around the rest of the church earns you upgrades—upgrades worth a lot more than a free hotel stay.

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

MESSENGER
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:
preinacher_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 847-742-5100
Fax: 847-742-6103

Display advertising:
rmatteson_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039
Fax: 847-742-1407

Editorial:
ffarrar_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 217-525-9083
Fax: 217-525-9269

Subscription rates:
$16.50 individual rate
$12.50 church individual plan
$10.50 church group plan
$10.50 gift subscriptions

If you move, clip address label and send with new address to MESSENGER Subscriptions, at the above address. Allow at least five weeks for address change.

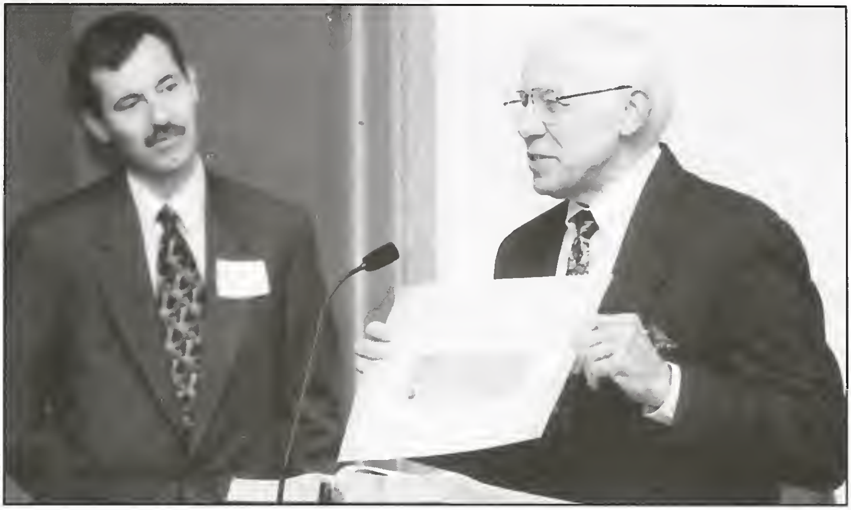
Connect electronically:
For a free subscription to *Newsline,* the Church of the Brethren e-mail news report, write cobnews@aol.com.

To view the official Church of the Brethren Web site, point your browser to http://www.brethren.org.

MESSENGER is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage matter Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 17, 1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of the Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religion News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Biblical quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New Revised Standard Version. MESSENGER is published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Church of the Brethren General Board. Periodical postage paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing office, April 1998. Copyright 1999, Church of the Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0355.
Postmaster: Send address changes to MESSENGER, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

Printed on recycled paper

In Touch



Jeff Leard

Don Fogelsanger *addresses Chambersburg Church of the Brethren members upon receiving a certificate from Don Fecher, director of the Brethren Pension Plan.*

Pension Plan honors its 1000th recipient

Longtime Church of the Brethren pastor Don Fogelsanger was honored Oct. 24 at Chambersburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren by Brethren Benefit Trust's Pension Plan for his role in helping the Plan reach a significant milestone.

When Fogelsanger notified the Pension Plan in October that he was ready to begin receiving his retirement benefits, the group of Brethren Pension Plan members who actively draw on their retirement became 1,000 strong.

In honor of Fogelsanger being identified as the Pension Plan's 1,000th active recipient, Don Fecher, Brethren Pension Plan director, presented Fogelsanger with a certificate at the Chambersburg church during morning worship.

The certificate recognized Fogelsanger's more than 30 years of financial stewardship as a Pension Plan member during his nearly 36 years as a pastor. It also acknowledged the four churches he served during his full-time career for believing in the importance of making contributions to Fogelsanger's pension account — Chambersburg, Lebanon (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, Harrisonburg (Va.) Church of the Brethren, and 28th Street Church of the Brethren, Altoona, Pa.

Brethren teen speaks at National Press Club against violence

The National Press Club, in Washington, D.C., featured a speaker from the Church of the Brethren on Oct. 18.

Others represented included the Christian Coalition, the Family Research Council, and Lt. Col. David Grossman, author of *Stop Teaching Our Kids to Kill.*

Grossman was featured in the General Board's live report at Annual Conference in Milwaukee. He was impressed with what the Brethren are doing to curtail violence against children.

Grossman contacted the the General Board's Witness Office to invite someone to share ways the Brethren are witnessing against violent toys and games. Amy Rhoades, an 18-year-old member of Trinity Church of the Brethren in Botetourt County, Va., and an intern in the Witness Office, answered the call.

She spoke at the National Press Club about the toy trade-in a Colorado congregation sponsored. Her speech was broadcast by

C-SPAN and Fox.

A recent high school honor graduate, Amy served on Virlina's Youth Cabinet for three years and on the National Youth Peace Travel Team last summer. She will visit the Dominican Republic in January 2000 for six months of mission service. Her task will be translating for workcamps and teaching English as a second language.

What is Lima's Beanie doing in the church kitchen?

Beanie, the mascot of Lima, Ohio, stopped by for a visit at Elm Street Church of the Brethren on national Make a Difference Day, Oct. 23, where neighborhood women were preparing chili for the noon meal.

Approximately 100 children and adults from the immediate neighborhood came to the church for chili, games, and face-painting for the Fall Fest sponsored by the Midway East neighborhood association.

In addition, neighborhood men gathered enough trash to fill two dumpsters the city placed on the church grounds. The association has met monthly at the church for the past four years to solve problems and to plan projects to improve the neighborhood.

Co-pastors Wesley and Sue Richard, association members, say, "It's wonderful to see 30 to 40 people coming together who didn't used to talk with each other."

The pastors recently began a weekly noon prayer meeting at the church. They invited neighbors to come to pray together for neighbors and neighborhood concerns. —Wes Richard

Bible Conference tradition continues

The Sebring (Fla.) Church of the Brethren has scheduled its annual Bible Conference for Jan. 23–30, to be led by Donald Miller, professor emeritus of Bethany Theological Seminary and former general secretary of the Church of the Brethren General Board. There are worship services nightly and Bible study sessions each morning.

The conference continues an annual tradtion begun in 1918, when the first Bible Conference was led by A. C. Wieand, a founder of what is now Bethany Theological Seminary. Other outstanding speakers over the years have included Otho Winger, Charles Ellis, Edward Ziegler, Harold Bomberger, M. R. Zigler, Paul M. Robinson, and Robert Neff.

For information call Cecil Hess or Ralph Ebersole at 863-385-1597.

Spiritual renewal conference scheduled at Elizabethtown

Richard Foster, the acclaimed Quaker author of *Celebration of Discipline* and other books on spiritual practices, will lead a major spiritual renewal conference March 10 and 11 at Elizabethtown College.

The conference, titled "RENOVARÉ: A Journey of Personal Spiritual Renewal," is sponsored by the Atlantic Northeast District of the Church of the Brethren and is an outgrowth of the work of the district's Spiritual Renewa Team. Foster, along with Emilie Griffin and George Skramstad, will lead participants in ways to grow in six areas: the prayer-filled life, the virtuous life, the spirit-empowered life, the compassionate life, the Word-centered life, and the sacramental life.

The conference is scheduled for 6-10 p.m. Friday, March 11, and 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m. March 11. Registration is $25 before Feb. 1; $35 after. Attendees arrange their own lodging. For more information or t register contact Atlantic Northeast District Church of the Brethren, 500 East Cedar Street, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. Tel. 717-367-4730.

District hosts session on children's ministry

Fifty people attended the Southeastern District Nurture Commission's Children's Ministry Workshop Nov. 6 at the Jackson Park Church of the Brethren in Jonesborough, Tenn. The workshop feaured many talented people rom the Southeastern Disrict who routinely work vith children's ministry.

Kathy Blair, a resident of onesborough and member f the National Storytellers ssociation, conducted a ession on storytelling as a ninistry. Curtis Rhudy, astor of the Jackson Park hurch, described the Youth lub, which involves 40 hildren in a Wednesday vening program of Bible tudy, crafts, music, and ecreation. The Handbell hoir of Jackson Park gave demonstration of how to se handbells in worship. ddie Wooten, youth minster of Little Pine Church f the Brethen in Ennice, .C., presented a session n getting youth involved nd excited in the local hurch. The Junior High hoir of Spindale (N.C.) hurch of the Brethren, led y Jane Blackwell, demonstrated their talents in ongs of worship. The Pupeteers from Beaver Creek hurch of the Brethren, noxville, Tenn., led by athi Jones, brought humor o worship through their se of puppet skits.
—Donna Shumate

Stewardship seminars held in CLT Area 1

The Congregational Life Team of Area 1 recently artnered with Christian ommunity to present two tewardship seminars. hristian Community is a onprofit organization doing research and program development.

The seminars were at the Hagerstown (Md.) Church of the Brethren on Oct. 23 and the Hollidaysburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren on Oct. 30.

The resource leader was Steve Clapp, president of Christian Community. The three main topics were stewardship and the spiritual life, effective stewardship education strategies, and practical ways to increase congregational giving without manipulation. More than 110 participants representing 40 congregations attended the seminars.

District board learns Worshipful Work

The Western Pennsylvania district board focused on Worshipful Work during its annual retreat Nov. 6.

The retreat was at the Westmont Church of the Brethren, Johnstown, Pa. Resource leaders were Ronald St. Clair, pastor of the Scalp Level Church of the Brethren, Windber, Pa., and Linda McCauliff, Congregational Life Team Area 1.

Worshipful Work focuses on intentionally introducing spirituality into a board's business agenda. The retreat included group building, storytelling with biblical and theological reflection, Bible study, and opportunity to revise the agendas of the four commissions.

For more information about the Worshipful-Work Network, call the Congregational Life Ministry Office at 800-323-8039.

David Jehnsen

A life devoted to nonviolence education

David Jehnsen has had a passion and commitment to nonviolence and peacemaking since 1962.

His commitment originated from his early experiences in Michigan and the Church of the Brethren. His parents had served as pastor and leaders of Brethren congregations for more than 55 years.

His nonviolence commitment was stimulated while serving as a conscientious objector in Brethren Volunteer Service 1962-64 and working closely with Martin Luther King, Jr.'s nonviolence civil rights campaigns from 1962-68. In 1962 he participated with a national delegation of interfaith leaders that joined King in jail in Albany, Ga., for several days. He served as a field staff coordinator (1965-68) with the Chicago Project - End Slums Movement.

Since 1968 his focus has been on institutionalizing the capacity for training and education, research, and public information about nonviolence conflict reconciliation.

Since 1978, David has served as volunteer chair of the Institute for Human Rights and Responsibilities. Today he writes and publishes nonviolence and democratic social change educational materials for use in training programs in the US and other countries. Since 1997 he has helped expand the capacity of an institution in Havana, Cuba, to conduct Kingian nonviolence education there. And, with colleague Bernard LaFayette, he is helping to lead a series of annual international conferences on nonviolence that began in 1998 and are planned through the year 2010.

David lives with his wife Deborah in Galena, Ohio, and is one of the founding members of the New Covenant Church of the Brethren in Columbus, Ohio. He joined the On Earth Peace Assembly board in 1999.—Mike Leiter

2000
and
BEYOND

The look of the new Annual Conference

Shorter, but better, and the best is preserved

Everything's up to date in Kansas City," as the music of Richard Rodgers informed us in *Oklahoma*. And Kansas City is where, appropriately, Annual Conference debuts its new schedule for "2000 and beyond."

In a departure from the old Tuesday-Sunday schedule, this Conference begins the evening of Saturday, July 15, and closes at noon on Wednesday. A weekend with two worship services and a "Brethren Ministries Live" presentation lay the spiritual basis for doing the business of the church beginning Sunday evening. Seminars, workshops, and other educational events have been scheduled after Conference.

Recognizing that Annual Conference is vital to the life of the denomination in providing for community worship, renewal of friendships among Brethren, and a setting to do the business of the church, the Program and Arrangements Committee wanted to preserve the best of the old while making room for the new.

The committee said it wanted to build a better spiritual base for the Conference event by having two major worship services prior to start of business. By beginning with back-to-back worship services on Saturday night and Sunday morning, Conference can offer a weekend of worship and fellowship to those who may not be able to attend the whole Conference.

Regina Bryan

Family fun at the 1999 Annual Conference.

The committee also recognized that Annual Conference is the "main event" and that many of the pre-Conference events were sapping the energy and enthusiasm from the Annual Conference itself. So, in the new schedule, many of those events have either been eliminated or have been changed to post-Conference events.

The abbreviated schedule addresses increasing concerns about the cost of Conference from attendees and agencies. Reducing the schedule by one day will also help the Annual Conference Fund to balance its budget.

However, according to Duane Steiner, Conference executive director, the best has been preserved. "We'll continue to have lots of good fellowship among Brethren, the Conference choir, and time to do the business of the denomination," he said. As usual, there will be age group activities (new this year are two groups for children: kindergarten through second grade, and third through fifth grades), insight sessions, Bible studies, and early evening concerts. As usual, there will also be a hall full of exhibits, as well as the quilt auction sponsored by AACB (Association of the Arts for the Church of the Brethren) following the closing worship on Wednesday.

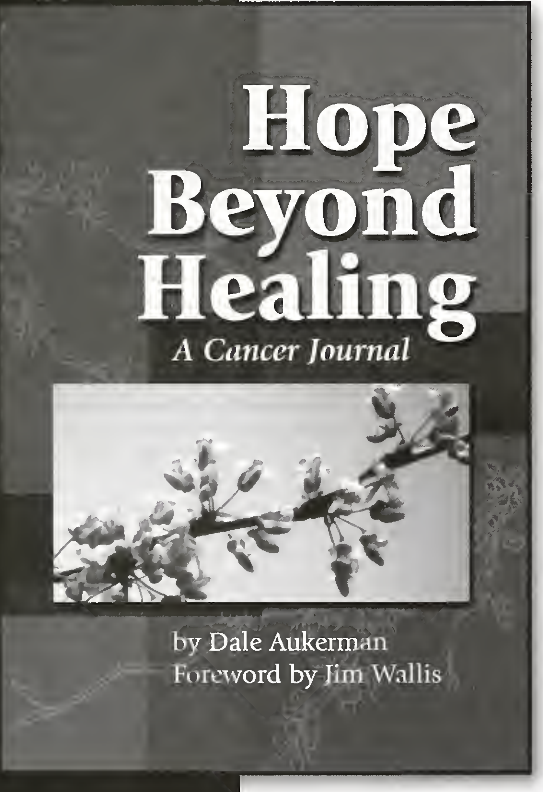
Special to "Kansas City 2000" are the ecumenical leaders presented. They include:

- **David Haas,** director of the Emmaus Center for Music, Prayer, and Ministry in Eagan, Minn. He will share his talents in music and worship on Sunday afternoon around Brethren Ministries Live, plus an early evening concert and an insight session.
- **Emanuel Cleaver,** pastor of St. James United Methodist Church and immediate past mayor of Kansas City, Mo. He will be the preacher for Tuesday evening.
- **Thomas Troeger,** professor of preaching and communications at Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Colo. He will bring the message at closing worship on Wednesday morning. He is also the featured speaker at the Ministers' Association event following Conference.—

FLETCHER FARRAR

"If we suddenly find ourselves face to face with dying, we come up against ultimate questions....After I received the diagnosis of advanced lung cancer, I needed to deal with those questions more intensely than I ever had before."

—DALE AUKERMAN



Hope Beyond Healing

A Cancer Journal

by Dale Aukerman
Foreword by Jim Wallis

The first thing many people think of upon hearing a diagnosis of cancer is death. But for Brethren activist and author Dale Aukerman, the first thought was life. When Dale learned he had lung cancer, his impulse was to vigorously renew his focus on Jesus Christ and God's presence in his life.

Hope Beyond Healing: A Cancer Journal is Dale's record of his faith and life during his nearly three-year battle with cancer. Up to the last hours of life, he shares the highs and lows of his illness, pointing others beyond physical healing toward the hope that comes from faith in Christ.

Hope Beyond Healing: A Cancer Journal by Dale Aukerman available February, 2000 from Brethren Press for $14.95 plus shipping and handling charges.

Brethren Press
This day.

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

David Radcliff

Phil Jones, *pastor, with Dennis Lipton.*

Conscientious objector dismissed from military

His conscientious objector claims denied, Dennis Lipton pled guilty in a Nov. 16 court martial trial at Maxwell Air Force base in Montgomery, Ala. After eight hours of testimony and arguments by the defense and prosecution, Lipton, a medical doctor, was dismissed from the Air Force with a $30,000 fine and five days of confinement.

Lipton began his path toward conscientious objection over two years ago. Even as the military was paying for his medical school education, he was haunted by the Hippocratic Oath, as well as by the teachings of Jesus.

"As a physician, I am called to promote and protect life. In war, the military takes life. As a Christian, a follower of the Prince of Peace, I am to love my enemies, turn the cheek, and do unto others what I would have them do unto me. To me, war is a violation of all these commands, and I must continue to live my life in opposition to participation in war in any form," Lipton said in his statement to the court.

The Air Force had earlier denied his C.O. claim, in spite of strong supporting testimony from military officers and civilians who knew Lipton. He had previously attempted to reach a settlement with the Air Force by offering to repay its investment in his education, but had the offer turned down.

Dennis and his wife, Melissa, attend the Shalom Church of the Brethren in Durham, N.C., near where they currently live. Shalom pastor Phil Jones testified at the trial, and the congregation has become a spiritual home for the Liptons since they first discovered it in September. Present at a pre-trial worship service and at the trial itself were members of the Shalom fellowship, other Brethren from as far away as Pennsylvania, and Mennonites, Friends, Roman Catholics, and other Christians. Representing the General Board was Brethren Witness director David Radcliff.

"This level of support in a trial like this was unusual. It meant a great deal to Dennis and certainly had an influence on the proceedings," noted Louis Font, Dennis' civilian attorney.

To assist in paying Lipton's legal fees and court-imposed fines, a legal defense fund has been established by the General Board. Contributions can be sent to the General Board, designated for Dennis Lipton.

Emergency Disaster Fund responds to many needs

The crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 brought quick response from the General Board's Emergency Response/Service Ministries. ER/SM's Childcare Aviation Incident Response team was activated Nov. 1 by the National Transportation Safety Board and American Red Cross to provide child care in Rhode Island to family and friends of victims of the disaster.

ER/SM staff member Lydia Walker served as administrator of the CAIR team, which also included Church of the Brethren member Sharon Gilbert of Fullerton, Calif., and several caregivers from other denominations (see article p. 26).

The Church of the Brethren General Board made a number of recent allocations from the Emergency Disaster Fund:

- A grant of $10,000 will go to support relief efforts in the wake of severe flooding in central and southeastern Mexico. The request, from Emergency Response/Service Ministries manager Stan Noffsinger, comes in response to a Church World Service appeal for $100,000 in denominational support.
- An allocation of $1,725 will go to meet an ER/SM request for shipping 50 cartons of beef chunks to El Salvador. The shipment will be sent to Doctors for the Right to Health in San Salvador, the capital. Audrey E. Lenhart, a member of the Manassas (Va.) congregation who is in El Salvador, will assist the doctors with the distribution of the beef chunks to needy persons as the doctors travel from village to village in their moving clinic.

Kathleen Campanella

BVS Orientation Unit #236 *brought together 17 volunteers from Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and all over the US at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md. For three weeks they lived together as a community and studied such topics as Church of the Brethren beliefs and practices, health care, conflict resolution, peacemaking, and capital punishment. They spent a day in Baltimore, Md., working for Chesapeake Habitat for Humanity, learning about building houses for low-income owners. A weekend was also spent at I Can, Inc., a Baltimore homeless shelter, meeting the men, listening to their stories, and learning about issues they face.*

Included in the picture, from left to right, top row: Dennis Rosas, Hauke Steg, Mike Lawrence, and Sue Grubb (staff). Middle row: Frank Schumann, Mariko Sato, Don Vernilyea, Mariana Marie, Rebekah Seilhamer, Regina Bode, and Timon Tröndle. Bottom row: Matt Stauffer (staff), Ruth Heidingsfelder, Carrie Fennig, Caitlin Keeler, Daniela Wurz, Bethany Williams, Jacki Hartley, and Aÿke Pietsch.

- An allocation of $25,000 was approved in support of the Church World Service/ Emergency Response appeal for earthquake relief in Taiwan.
- Another grant allocates an additional $20,000 to support ER/SM's response to Hurricane Floyd in Virginia and North Carolina. Six weeks of Disaster Child Care response was completed in November, and ER/SM is laying the groundwork for two long-term repair and reconstruction projects.
- An allocation of $9,100 will support Interfaith Disaster Response's recovery efforts following Hurricane Bret in Falfurrias, Tex. The storm struck early in the hurricane season and received only minimal response from the American Red Cross and federal agencies. Funds will be used to purchase materials for 14 roofing projects for low-income families who have "fallen through the cracks."
- A grant for $30,000 will support the work of North Carolina Interfaith Disaster Response, also in the wake of Hurricane Floyd. NCIDR is an experienced disaster relief agency working at meeting emergency and long-term needs of the survivors of the hurricane. The aid includes food, baby and hygiene items, cleaning supplies, building materials, and counseling.

First Alexander Mack Festival draws a crowd and dollars

About 1,500 people attended the first Alexander Mack Festival at Camp Mack in Milford, Ind., on Oct. 2.

The festival, celebrating the 50th anniversary of 12 large Church of the Brethren history murals at the camp, netted nearly $18,000. More than $10,000 of that came from an auction.

Some of the funds are earmarked for a new mural being painted by Margie Petry to bring the Church of the Brethren history up to date.

Next year will mark the camp's 75th anniversary. Andrew Young, former ambassador to the United Nations and mayor of Atlanta, Ga., who was recently named president of the National Council of Churches, will speak at a celebration service following a golf tournament on May 20, when the new mural will also be unveiled.

McPherson inducts first nine into Athletic Hall of Fame

McPherson (Kan.) College launched its Athletic Hall of Fame on Oct. 23 with nine inductees.

The charter group included Earl Kinzie (Class of '28), Guy Hayes ('34), Doris Coppock ('48), George Keim ('54), Ed Delk ('59), Jeanne Suellentrop Boucek ('77), Craig Holman ('79), Denise Race ('87), and coach Sid Smith.

Coppock and Smith taught athletics at the school, and all but Smith starred in a variety of sports there.

McPherson also recently announced its 1999 Young Alumni Award recipients, honoring significant achievements of McPherson alumni who have graduated in the past 25 years. Awards went to Jeffrey Bach ('79), now a professor at Bethany Theological Seminary; family therapist Carol White Leland ('74); and McPherson theatre professor Rick Tyler ('74).

Video on workcamps is now available in district offices

The 2000 Workcamp Video is now available from the Youth and Young Adult Ministry office of the General Board. The video provides an overview of each of the 22 junior high, senior high, and young adult workcamps offered during the summer of 2000 and explains what the workcamp experience is all about through interviews with coordinators and past participants.

Those interested in viewing the video should contact their district office, which has a copy available to be loaned out, or call Jacki Hartley or Alan Edwards in the Youth and Young Adult Ministry office at 800-323-8039.

Bethany conducts training for interim ministry specialists

Training for effective interim ministry was the focus of a seminar held at Bethany Theological Seminary on Nov. 6. About 25 people from Mennonite, Quaker, Brethren, and other churches gathered to learn how interim ministry specialists can effectively help congregations through a time of transition.

James Bower of Earlham School of Religion spoke about the specialized work of an intentional interim minister in moving through the five developmental tasks in transition ministry. Tara Hornbacker of Bethany moderated the discussion of panelists Opal Pence Nees, James Davis, and Donna Moore, all of whom have experience in interim ministry.

Those attending this training event included seminary students, active pastors, retirees who may be looking forward to possible interims, and several persons currently serving as interims.

Leadership conference planned for June at Juniata

The Area 1 (Northeast) districts and the Ministry Office of the General Board are sponsoring a June 8–10 event called "Leadership 2000 . . . Preparing Church Leaders for the New Millennium."

The conference, designed for pastors, licensed ministers, deacons, other congregational leaders, district leaders, and district and associate executives, will be at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pa.

A focus on pastoral and district/associate executive leadership issues will run all three days, while a focus on district and congregational lay leadership issues will run June 9-10. Messiah College president Rodney Sawatsky, St. Paul School of Theology president Lovett Weems, and Jeff Woods of the Alban Institute will be the keynote speakers. Christina A. Bucher, chair of the department of religion at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College will be the Bible study presenter.

Staff changes

Steven Abe has been called as district minister for West Marva District, effective Jan. 1. Abe has been pastor of the Elkins, W.Va., congregation since 1992. He and his family will move to the district parsonage in Oakland, Md.

• **Steve Gregory** has accepted the call as half-time Congregational Life Team Member, Area 5 (West), beginning Jan. 1. Prior to this assignment, Gregory was half-time district executive for Oregon-Washington District. He has pastored the Outlook (Wash.), Ladera (Calif.), and Mountain View (Idaho) congregations. He has also held various district offices in Pacific Southwest, Idaho, and Oregon-Washington districts.

• **Walt Wiltschek** begins Jan. 31 as manager of news services. An ordained minister, Wiltschek is associate pastor of the Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren. He also is editor of the denominational young adult newsletter, *Bridge*, serves on the Junior High Task Force, and is interim *Newsline* editor. He has served on the Young Adult Steering Committee, written articles for MESSENGER, and assisted the communication team at two Annual Conferences and at the 1998 National Youth Conference. He has also been active in Southern Pennsylvania and Mid-Atlantic districts, and in his local congregations.

Wiltschek has nearly eight years of experience on two different newspaper staffs, the York (Pa.) *Daily Record* and the *Carroll County* (Md.) *Times*.

Brethren Volunteer Service Unit #235, *sponsored by Brethren Revival Fellowship, completed orientation at Roxbury, Pa. They are, from left to right top row: Shannon Lehigh, Lowell Ebersole, and Regina Zook. Bottom row: Heidi Lehigh, Morgan Lehigh (baby), Pertrevian Toledo, Clara Witmer, and Lowell Witmer.*

Alan Boleyn

Christy Waltersdorff *preaching at National Youth Conference in 1994.*

What about future generations? *Will there be a place for Renee Neher if she is called to ministry? Renee is active in the York Center Church of the Brethren, Lombard, Ill.*

Preach, sisters!

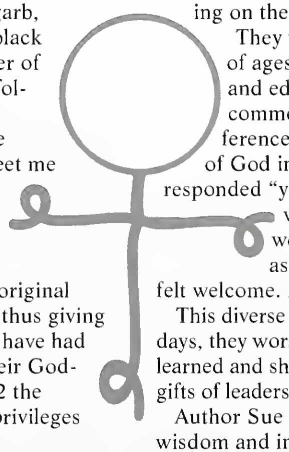
Women have had official full rights as ministers for years, but too few are called to serve.

BY CHRISTY J. WALTERSDORFF

"I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. . . ." —Joel 3:28

Women were with Jesus from the cradle to the cross. On Easter Sunday morning, who was the first to see and recognize the risen Christ? A woman. Knowing all of this, why in the world would human beings think that God would not want women to preach the gospel?"

These words were spoken to me, with emotion, by an elderly Brethren woman I visited many years ago. She was in her 90s and wore the traditional Brethren garb, prayer covering, plain black dress, and plain black shoes. This dear woman was a lifelong member of the Church of the Brethren and a committed follower of Christ. On our visits she would often quote scripture and share her memories of the church in years past. She was overjoyed to meet me because I was the first woman pastor to ever enter her home. She thought it was quite sad that she had to wait until she was 93 to meet an ordained woman.



Even though three women were among the original eight people to be baptized in the Eder River, thus giving birth to the church called "Brethren," women have had to struggle to find acceptance and to claim their God-given role in leadership in the church. In 1892 the General Conference granted women "all the privileges which brethren claim for themselves."

In the late 1800s and early 1900s women were ordained and served as pastors and preachers. That blessing came to an end in the 1920s and '30s when the church reversed its decision and women lost the right to be ordained. That privilege was not reinstated until 1958.

Currently there are 2,286 licensed and ordained ministers in the Church of the Brethren and only 343, or 15 percent, are women. There are 1,194 ordained ministers serving in pastoral positions and only 154, or 13 percent, are women.

A strong contingent of ordained and licensed women gathered at the Cenacle Spiritual Retreat House in Warrenville, Ill., in April 1999. Gathering for the Church of the Brethren Women in Ministry retreat were 70 women who serve as chaplains, students, writers, counselors, social workers, educators, and pastors. They came from all over the United States to spend four days focusing on the theme "Spirit Bound, Spirit Free!"

They were a diverse group, representing a variety of ages, experiences, theological understandings, and educational background. What they held in common, though, was greater still than their differences. They are women who have heard the call of God in their lives. They are women who responded "yes" to that call and who continue to learn what it means to be in ministry. They are women who claim the Church of the Brethren as their church, although they have not always felt welcome. Most of all, they are women of Spirit.

This diverse group formed a community where, for four days, they worshiped and prayed, sang and enjoyed silence, learned and shared, laughed and cried. Women shared their gifts of leadership and friendship freely and graciously.

Author Sue Bender was the keynote speaker and shared wisdom and insights from her books, *Plain and Simple* and *Everyday Sacred.* Many arrived at the retreat tired, spent, and distracted, and left feeling renewed, empowered, and refreshed.

When women in ministry gather together they share not only the joy of their calling, but also the pain. Many women in ministry find themselves in a very perplexing position at the dawn of a new century. At a time when the executive director and the chair of the General Board, as well as the moderator of Annual Conference, are female, only 13 percent of our pastors are women.

At a time when some women find great freedom in their calling, others find themselves bound by stereotypes, false assumptions, and outdated (and decidedly unchristian) patriarchal structures.

At a time when the church cries out about the "leadership shortage," competent and committed women are not called to serve.

At a time when the church is celebrating the gifts of women in major leadership roles, congregations and districts are overlooking the necessity of gender equality on committees and commissions.

Those of us who believe that God created male and female in God's own image; those of us who seek to follow in the footsteps of Jesus who welcomed all people; those of us who believe that the Holy Spirit is poured out on all flesh, have a responsibility to nurture and to call forth the gifts of God's children regardless of gender.

At its October meeting, the General Board affirmed a "Resolution on Women in Ministry" [see below]. The Office on Ministry raised the concern that the number of women being trained for ministry is higher than those being placed in ministry positions. The resolution calls for the denomination to reaffirm its 1958 Annual Conference decision to grant "full and unrestricted rights in the ministry" to women. The General Board encourages and challenges congregations and districts to celebrate the gifts of both men and women and to seek to look at both equally when calling persons to licensing and ordination.

(continued on p.16)

Resolution on women in ministry

The 1958 Annual Conference responded with "request granted" to a query from the First District of Virginia (now the Virlina District) requesting that "women be granted full and unrestricted rights in the ministry" (Annual Conference Minutes, 1958, Women in the Ministry, p. 113).

Polity papers on ministry in 1975, 1985, and 1999 state, "The Church of the Brethren has two degrees for its ministerial leadership: the licensed and ordained ministry. The policies of both apply equally to men and women" (Ministerial Leadership, 1999, p. 2).

The Church of the Brethren has made progress in granting "full and unrestricted rights in ministry" to women during the past 41 years. We need to affirm and celebrate the church's response to the challenge by the 1958 Annual Conference.

Statistics, however, indicate that the progress has been slow. Currently, we have 2,286 licensed and ordained ministers in the denomination, and only 343 (15 percent) are women. There are 1,194 ordained ministers serving as pastors, and only 154 (13 percent) are women, and many of them are in associate pastoral positions. One has to ask why the numbers are so low for women in these leadership positions.

The number of women being trained for ministry is much higher than the placement numbers. Clearly, many women have experienced a call from God and are eager to serve in a wide variety of leadership positions, especially as pastors, but some in the church are reluctant to accept and appreciate women in leadership positions.

Therefore, the General Board:

1.Calls the denomination to reaffirm the decision by the 1958 Annual Conference to grant "full and unrestricted rights in the ministry" to women.

2. Encourages and challenges congregations and districts to treat men and women equally when persons are being considered for the licensed and ordained ministry.

3. Encourages and challenges congregations and districts to treat men and women equally when they search for and call ordained leaders to fill pastoral vacancies.

4. Asks the Office of Ministry to develop a study guide, as a companion piece to the 1999 paper on Ministerial Leadership, with special emphasis on biblical, historical, and contemporary materials bearing on the issue of women in ministry, for congregations and district ministry commissions.

Approved by the Church of the Brethren General Board, October 18, 1999.

In accordance with the resolution, the Office of Ministry is currently preparing a study guide on the 1999 Ministerial Leadership Paper, to include a major section on women in ministry. Publication of the study guide, to be part of the In Our Midst *series of study materials, is planned for mid-year.*

The first woman preacher

New book recounts the uncommon life of Sarah Righter Major

Sarah Righter Major (1808-1884) was famous in her own circles in the mid-1800s for being a woman preacher in a tradition dominated and controlled by men, but few people know much about her today. In *An Uncommon Woman,* Nancy Kettering Frye provides many of the details, facts, and stories about the life of Sister Sarah, the first woman preacher in the Church of the Brethren. Frye places Sister Sarah in the context of the early 19th century and introduces us to the many women and men who influenced her life and supported her preaching ministry.

A special feature of the book is an appendix that contains the complete text of a letter written by Sarah Major in 1835 to a critic who challenged her call to preach. That letter, to Jacob Sala, an Ohio printer, later appeared in *The Gospel Messenger,* Dec. 28, 1935, and excerpts from it are reprinted here.

Lower Merrion, April 1, 1835

Respected Stranger and Brother: May Grace, Mercy and Peace be with thee and all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ—to whom be praise now and forever, Amen.

Let me say, Christ has not only honored your sex, but he has comforted mine.

When he was to come into the world, he sent his angel, not to Joseph, but to Mary, face to face, to tell her she was "bless'd among women" and by the Holy Ghost gave her words to magnify God with Elizabeth in a loud voice, in the very city of the priests, where Zachariah dwelt.

When he came first in the temple, his spirit moved the lips of Simeon and Anna, and some historians whose sects oppose a woman's testimony, call her the first herald of the gospel, and say she went from house to house, and to the towns of Israel, proclaiming to them that Christ the Messiah had come.

And when he burst the bars of death, his few disciples are in fears and tears—at home, but Mary seeks him—living or dead, and finds him alive and receives his dear command to go and tell his disciples and Peter too, that he is risen from the dead.

But when the day of Pentecost was fully come, you know they were all together with one accord in one place, the number of the disciples was 120 (men and women) in prayer and supplication they waited for the promise to endue them with power from on high, and cloven tongues like as of fire sat on each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and spake with other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance, even so that none of their many enemies could dispute Peter's testimony when he said to them, This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel, "And it shall come to pass in the last days I will pour out my spirit on all flesh and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy."

And that this gift continued in the church, just as they received the Holy Ghost, I am well convinced, and was the gift of the Holy Ghost, to some women at Corinth, to whom Paul wrote, to prophets male and female, how they should dress, when either of them pray'd or prophesied. Let Paul explain prophesy. "He that prophesieth, speaketh to edification, exhortation and comfort," and the gift of speaking to edify, to exhort and comfort is not given at the schools, nor at any time we please, nor by the power of man.

Therefore, I conceive it would be very inconsistent in an apostle, who had laid his hands on men and women, and pray'd over them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost, to quench the gift of the Spirit of God, because it was given to a woman—in answer to prayer—when at that time it may not be given in such measure to more experienced Christians. God always gave his gifts freely where they were willing to use them, and I believe in Christ Jesus male and female are one, just as Jew and Gentile are made one.

Every one should do as much as they can to glorify God with the different gifts of the Spirit of God. You once thought in reference to the church the apostle said "Let the women be silent." Now in two places in the scriptures they tell me, Paul says so—but there is much in the Old Testament about holy women, in the old and new church of Moses and of Christ.

Now if all the rest of the scriptures prove that Paul in these two passages forbids all women to speak by the spirit of God, to edify, exhort and comfort the church of believers, and convince the unbelieving men and women of the truth, then it might be so believed. But if the rest of the testimony proves the contrary, then Paul in these two letters is not understood.

My love to all who love the Lord, etc.

Philadelphia.

SARAH ..... (Major)

An Uncommon Woman: The Life and Times of Sarah Righter Major *by Nancy Kettering Frye, has been published by Brethren Press in association with the Brethren Historical Committee. The 64-page paperback retails at $6.95. The book (#8224) can be ordered from Brethren Press at 800-441-3712, fax 800-667-8188, or via e-mail at brethren_press_gb@brethren.org.*

(continued from p.14)

Walt Wiltschek

Three top leaders *of the Church of the Brethren are all ordained women. Emily Mumma, left, moderator, is pastor of the Hollidaysburg, Pa., congregation. Judy Mills Reimer, General Board executive director, was pastor of Smith Mountain Lake Fellowship Church of the Brethren in Virginia before she assumed her current position. Mary Jo Flory-Steury, chair of the General Board, is pastor of the Prince of Peace congregation, Kettering, Ohio.*

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to live by his example. Over and over again in the Gospels we see Jesus reaching out to all people— male and female, young and old, insiders and outsiders, Jews and foreigners, rich and poor, the broken and the whole. How can we believe ourselves to be the Church of Jesus Christ while refusing to accept the gifts of those he has called in his name? How can we recite the Scriptures, worship together, and pray as one body while refusing the leadership of women who have truly experienced the call of God in their lives?

As we begin a new century and move ever closer to the 300th birthday of our denomination, it is vital that we celebrate the gifts of all of God's children. The church can truly be the church only when it calls forth the best in each of us. If we expect the Church of the Brethren to continue to be faithful to God in the years to come, now is the time to strip away all of the barriers that keep us apart. Now is the time to celebrate and nurture the gifts for ministry in our boys and our girls, in our young men and young women, in our old men and our old women. If we do this, we shall truly be the community of faith called together in the name of Christ. Like my wise old friend asked, "Why would God not want that?" M.

Christy Waltersdorff is pastor of York Center Church of the Brethren in Lombard, Ill., and is a member of the General Board.

Bethany Theological Seminary

Where are they now?

The Bethany Theological Seminary Class of 1995, pictured at left, had 12 graduates, all receiving master of divinity degrees. Of the six women, four were Church of the Brethren members and three of them are currently pastors.

In the Bethany Class of 1996, five of the 11 master of divinity graduates were women, all of them Brethren. Three of the women are currently pastoring, one is seeking a pastorate, and one is working in an interfaith ministry.

Two women graduated in 1997 with master of divinity degrees. Both are currently serving as pastors.

The Bethany Class of 1998 had eight men and six women graduating with master of divinity degrees. All of the women are Brethren. Four of the six are pastors, one is working for a Christian education resources organization, and one is in chaplaincy.

The Bethany Class of 1999 had 15 master of divinity graduates, including five women. One had been called to serve as a pastor before she died in an automobile accident. One is currently not seeking a pastorate, and the other three are in clinical pastoral education programs. —*information courtesy Bethany Theological Seminary*

Celebration and struggle

PHOTOS AND STORY
BY HOWARD E. ROYER

In Cleveland, both savory moments and vexing questions marked the 50th anniversary assembly of the National Council of Churches of Christ

If a portrait were to be drawn of the National Council of Churches of Christ at age 50, its face would be lined with celebration and struggle.

Celebration over breakthroughs in reconciliation, significant advances in Bible translation, engagement with the arts, and advocacy for marginalized peoples. Struggle over fiscal viability, administrative prowess, and council priorities.

This was the picture that emerged in November from the NCCC General Assembly convened in Cleveland, the city of its birth. At its chartering in 1950 attended by more than 50 Brethren (see sidebar), delegates were confronted with a snowstorm that left travelers stranded en route. For the 50th anniversary, the festivities were blessed by a week of unseasonably mild temperatures.

But the omen of favorable weather dare not blind the NCCC community to storm clouds on the horizon: A $4 million deficit to be retired. The depletion of reserves. A major structural shift to be implemented. One third of the work force to be released.

Host to the NCCC jubilee *was Cleveland, a city of arts, sports, and interchurch cooperation.*

Even so, the mood of the delegates was determined and hopeful, buoyed in part by a fervent desire of member communions to work together in the 21st century and by expectations that a new management team will invigorate the council. Plus the recognition that, as retiring general secretary Joan Brown Campbell put it, "justice never comes easily, never without a struggle. But justice comes—just as sure as the scripture says to us. It will roll down."

Signs of reconciliation

Recounting signal events from her nine years of executive leadership, Campbell cited the council's unflagging support of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, the campaign to rebuild burned churches in the US, and her office's role in freeing American soldiers held hostage in Belgrade.

Unfolding during the assembly itself was a face-to-face meeting of four survivors of a July 1950 massacre in Korea and three veterans from the US military that launched the attack. The incident in the hamlet of No Gun Ri left hundreds of refugees killed. A noonday service of recognition and remembrance at Old Stone Church on Cleveland's Public Square was seen as a step toward healing and reconciliation.

"Reconciliation is the glue of the good society and it is the ecumenical task," declared Campbell in a sermon based on the parable of the prodigal son. Delivered at Old Stone Church on the Sunday preceding the assembly, the sermon set the tone for the week of celebration.

Installation service

In worship, the high point was the installation service for the new president of the NCCC, Andrew Young, United Church of Christ minister and former US ambassador to the United Nations. Some 1,200 worshipers packed Cleveland's Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist for the two-hour ceremony, for which the principal sermon was delivered by Otis Moss Jr., senior pastor of a large Baptist congregation in Cleveland.

Prayers and music came from various traditions, including works by Beethoven, Fannie Jane Crosby, and James Weldon Johnson. The service concluded with a candlelight recessional and the stirring "Siyahamba" led by the 75-voice Shaker Heights High School Choir.

Jesse Jackson was among several clergy who spoke, and outgoing NCCC president Craig Anderson, an Episcopal bishop, led the installation ceremony.

From a common candle General Board executive director Judy Mills Reimer, who represented the Church of the Brethren in the procession, lit one of the 35 candles symbolizing the member communions.

New at NCCC *helm are general secretary Robert Edgar, at left, and president Andrew Young.*

Common task

On an earlier evening a private concert by the Cleveland Orchestra performed the works of Berlioz, Debussy, Holst, Dvorak, and contemporary composer Bernard Rands, who was present, on the theme "Inspiration." A panel discussion followed, lifting up the spiritual power of music and a task that music and religion share in common, expressing the inexpressible.

Other ventures into the arts and culture included announcement of a forthcoming documentary on the council's leadership in Bible translation; the release of *New Songs for Unity in Christ*, hymns commissioned by seven member churches for the anniversary celebration; a full jazz liturgy and eucharist led by the Chicago Jazz Mass; biblical storytelling; forums including a seminar at Cleveland's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; and art exhibits, poetry readings, and dramatic and choral performances by area young people.

A sales exhibit of international crafts from developing countries was mounted by SERRV, and a festive CROP Walk was led by staff of Church World Service.

Budget concerns

The dominant business items before delegates were budget considerations and a plan of restructure.

The council's deficit of $4 million is the result in part of a $2.4 million expenditure since March 1998 for management consultant fees and corrective measures. Also contributing to the deficit were one-time adjustments in pension fund payments, a Burned Churches Fund allocation, authorized but unbudgeted expenses over recent years, and a 10 percent "set aside" in future budgets to replenish financial reserves.

The budget situation was deemed by observers to be the severest financial crisis in the council's history.

Restructure

A plan of restructure for the council calls for Church World Service and Witness to become semi-autonomous, accountable directly to the NCCC General Assembly and handling its own administration. The bulk of the remaining council program is to be lodged in a single unit called Unity and Service.

The restructure calls for the elimination of 34 of 122 positions for the New York staff. Another 250 staff are based elsewhere. The cuts will trim three associate general secretary positions and four director positions.

The restructuring plan passed by the assembly is so complex and fluid that the 2000 budget was yet to be developed.

Other actions

In other deliberations, the General Assembly adopted a policy statement on interfaith relations, urged the US Congress to pass legislation to pay off the $2 billion owed by the US government to the United Nations, and dealt with measures addressing racism and family violence.

Still another action set the stage for the Alliance of Baptists, a Washington, D.C.-based communion of 60,000 Baptists and 125 congregations, to become the 36th member of the council at the next assembly.

New executive

Elected as the council's new general secretary, beginning Jan. 1, was Robert W. Edgar, an ordained United Methodist elder. Since 1990 he has been president of Claremont (Calif.) School of Theology. Formerly he served seven terms as a member of the US Congress from Pennsylvania.

Edgar sees himself as a salvager who can bring back troubled institutions, and also as an optimist, a futurist, and a coalition-builder. Those skills will be useful as he addresses the funding and restructuring challenges of the council and drives what he terms a "35-hump camel."

Not unlike the varied interests that may be present within a congregation, the NCCC holds in membership "families" with distinct leanings. Included are seven denominations that provide 90 percent of the funding, another seven that represent the historic Black churches, a cluster of Orthodox communions, and smaller bodies such as the Church of the Brethren, Friends, and Swedenborgians. Such diversity virtually assures that decision-making will not be readily cohesive.

Calling

On issues surrounding funding and direction-setting, Ambassador Young recalled a lesson from the civil rights movement. "If we stayed on the mission, the money would come," he said. "When the mission and message were not clear, the management and the money were always inadequate.

"I have seen that when the church gets a clear vision, it is empowered by the Holy Spirit to change the world and help make all things new," he added, citing examples of what he viewed as the church being decisive and prophetic in its witness. The list included reconstruction in post-war Europe, civil rights in the US, and racial reconciliation in South Africa.

"The strains of the council have come from attempting to live up to the call of Jesus Christ in the last half of the 20th century" Young stated. "The challenge is to hear the call of Christ for the 21st century."

Gift of unity

What the council will look like at age 60 or 75 is anyone's guess, though change is a given. What is known is that the member communions care a great deal about claiming the gift of unity in Christ that God has given to the churches, and that remains a key motivator in the cause of common witness.

Howard Royer is staff for interpretation for the General Board. Among communication tasks he has carried with the NCCC was to chair the committee that developed the council's logo a decade ago and, while on sabbatical in 1992, to cover Church World Service programs in Kenya, Somalia, and Zimbabwe.

Brethren at the National Council Assembly—now and then.

Six delegates from the Church of the Brethren participated in the NCCC General Assembly in Cleveland: Connie Burkholder, Ankeny, Iowa; Michael Hostetter, Roanoke, Va.; Richard Speicher, North Lima, Ohio; Mary Jo Flory-Steury, Dayton, Ohio; and Mervin Keeney and Judy Mills Reimer, Elgin, Ill.

Thirty other Brethren or people from Brethren-related agencies also were present, including the Interchurch Relations Committee, which was hosted by the Brook Park Church of the Brethren.

Other Brethren participants included three NCCC staff who work in regional offices of Church World Service: Barry Henry, Jefferson City, Mo.; Julie Liggett, Denver, Colo.; and Dennis Metzger, Springfield, Ill.

More than 50 Brethren attended the convention which chartered the National Council in Cleveland in November 1950. Delegates from the Church of the Brethren were Rufus D. Bowman, Paul M. Robinson, Mrs. E. R. Fisher, C. Ernest Davis, Raymond R. Peters, and R. E. Mohler.

Church of the Brethren delegates, *left to right, front, Mary Jo Flory-Steury, Merv Keeney, Richard Speicher; rear, Michael Hostetter, Judy Mills Reimer, and Connie Burkholder.*

From Africa to Indiana

At last, another Nigerian student gets clearance to enroll at Bethany

BY MARCIA SHETLER

It has been a long journey for Patrick Bugu to realize a dream. Long in distance — he is thousands of miles from home. Long in waiting — including four years and many trips to the US Embassy in Nigeria. But thanks to his patience, and the continuing efforts of Bethany Theological Seminary and the Church of the Brethren General Board, his dream of studying at Bethany has finally come true. An ordained pastor in the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) Bugu arrived in the United States Aug. 23 and has settled in on the Richmond, Ind., campus.

Bugu was first invited to come for study in 1995, but in spite of annual attempts he was not granted a study visa from the US government until last summer. He has been a pastor, but recently carried the function of librarian at the Theological College of Northern Nigeria in Bukuru, Plateau State, an ecumenical seminary of which the Church of the Brethren is a founding member. A second leader who had been invited since 1995, Abraham Wuta Tizhe, has discontinued his bid to come for study at this time due to similar difficulty in obtaining the study visa and his election as general secretary of EYN in early 1999.

Filibus Gwama had been the most recent Nigerian leader to study at Bethany. He graduated in 1995 and currently serves the Maiduguri congregation in northern Nigeria, thought to be the largest Church of the Brethren congregation in the world.

BETHANY
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Merv Keeney

A dream come true. *Patrick Bugu had to wait four years to receive a visa to come from Nigeria to study at Bethany Seminary.*

"We are delighted to have a Nigerian church leader among us again. Patrick is an able leader and a fine scholar," said Merv Keeney, the General Board's director of Global Mission Partnerships. "We eagerly look forward to the contributions he will make to the Bethany community and to our relationship as sister churches." Providing scholarships for Nigerian church leaders to study at Bethany has been a joint effort of the seminary and the Global Mission Partnerships office.

Bugu says his initial experiences in America do not fit the Nigerian perception of a nation of individualists each going their own way. He got lost in Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, unable to find those who had come to greet him. An American Airlines employee arranged for Patrick to spend the night in a motel, though he had not flown on that airline. "At that point, all ideas I had about America — I just dropped them," Bugu said. His time at Bethany has been more of the same, and the warm welcome from students and professors has impressed him. "Every professor is concerned that I will do well," he said. "They ask, 'Are you understanding me?'"

David Shetler, Bethany's coordinator of enrollment management, worked with him through the admissions process and continues, through his work in student development, as a resource now that Bugu is on campus. This is Shetler's first experience with an international student, which has been both enjoyable and challenging. "I have found that helping international students adjust to semi-

Marcia Shetler

Closing the culture gap. *Patrick with housemates Barbra Davis and Patrick Starkey.*

nary life takes time, care, and availability. We deal with all kinds of questions and situations," Shetler said. He taught Bugu how to maintain a checking account, arranged for furniture and clothing, and found a computer for him to use. Shetler also had the pleasure of accompanying him on his first trip to the grocery store, and taking him to a restaurant where he had his first taste of pizza and hamburgers.

Dale and Claire Ulrich from Bridgewater, Va., serving as short-term volunteers as Brethren House hosts at Bethany, were also able to help. Dale tutored Bugu on the computer, and they transported him to the Richmond Church of the Brethren for Sunday worship. "They treat me just like their own son," Bugu said.

The West Charleston Church of the Brethren near Tipp City, Ohio, donated clothing, furniture, and kitchen items. Lucy Godbey, who coordinated the effort, comments, "The people at West Charleston like to help when we see a need. We feel especially called to do what we can for Patrick as he prepares to help his people and to help the church in Nigeria 'continue the work of Jesus: peacefully, simply, together.' We feel sure he has been and will be an instrument of God's peace in this country."

Bugu shares a house with two students, senior Patrick Starkey from Roanoke, Va., and first-year student Barbra Davis from Ankeny, Iowa. The trio has met the challenge of tackling cultural barriers, and the added muddle of two Patricks living in the same house. "Our neighbor decided she is going to make it easier on herself and call me Pat," Barbra joked.

Both housemates said they are delighted with the opportunity to live with and learn from their new Nigerian friend. Starkey has served on Bethany's Educational Policies Committee and knew of the recent struggle to bring a Nigerian student to Bethany. "I was thrilled when we were finally able to have a Nigerian student again," Starkey said. "When I found out he would be living here, that was a bonus." The two Patricks have developed an informal "I won't do that" list, referring to occasions that are common in the US that the sometimes reluctant Bugu has not experienced, such as swimming and going to the movies. He has already crossed swimming off the list, thanks to a trip to nearby Hueston Woods State Park in Ohio with professor Dan Ulrich and family.

Housemate Barbra Davis served in Ireland through Brethren Volunteer Service, and this experience has helped her understand Bugu's mixture of British and American English. For example, she knew that when he asked for a torch for his bicycle, it was not a flaming stick that he wanted, but a light.

She has enjoyed the long, good discussions on issues and Bugu's descriptions of the cooperation of 11 denominations to run TCNN library. "Patrick says that the Brethren send more visitors, and other denominations provide more books," Davis commented, "and the people there would rather have more visitors than books to make a personal connection with other parts of the world. This opened my eyes to what we consider mission and the importance of sending people. I think we should do more, and I would like to visit Nigeria myself."

It was through visitors that Bugu began to consider coming to Bethany. A visit by Murray Wagner, professor emeritus, and seminary students sparked his interest, as did conversations with other Nigerian Bethany students.

For Bugu, his wife, Rebecca, and their five children ages 5-18, the next two years of separation will be long as he studies for his master of arts in theology degree. He says that this opportunity for study "brought a mixture of both sadness and joy." He gave daughters Nuwa, 18, and Koni, 16, instructions to give extra help to their mother.

Bugu is especially interested in Christian education and hopes to apply his new knowledge at home in Nigeria. EYN congregations are looking for ways to teach parents that Christian education is not just a concern for churches and schools; parents also have a role in raising children in the faith.

In turn, Bugu's presence will enrich the Bethany community. "Patrick willingly shares in class about his experiences in Nigeria and how they differ from ours in the US," Ulrich said. Starkey added, "It's one thing to study missions in an academic way. It's another to hear an actual Nigerian voice speaking about missions and the relationship of the EYN to the Church of the Brethren." M.

Marcia Shetler has been coordinator of public relations at Bethany Theological Seminary since 1996. Prior to that, she was on staff at the Southern Ohio District office for seven years. She is from New Paris, Ohio, and a member of the Oakland Church of the Brethren, Gettysburg, Ohio.

Marianne Sackett

A different kind of church camp

The newest Church of the Brethren camp, Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center develops its ministry for all ages

STORY AND PHOTOS BY WALT WILTSCHEK

Walt Wiltschek

Shepherd's Spring, *for which the camp was named.*

Pastor Pete Haynes of the Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren, Glen Arm, Md., remembers going to Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center for its first official summer camp season, a youth camp in the summer of 1991.

The group slept in tents pitched in a field and ate in another large tent. Portable restroom units provided the bathroom facilities. Showers came during outings to swimming pools in the area. The following few summers saw meals served at tables in the garage of the maintenance building.

Like the quiet waters of the small spring trickling through the land near Sharpsburg, Md., the camp on the property surrounding it and bearing its name had humble beginnings. But, more like the wide Potomac River that marks the property's boundary, it has grown and flourished since then.

"That was the most rustic Shepherd's Spring ever was," Haynes said, reflecting on his summers in the tents. "It's been gratifying to see it evolve step by step, seeing the cabins go up (in 1992) and later the lodge (1994-95)."

Beginning a new camp, the first new camp facility in the denomination since the 1970s, didn't come without some pain and risk. The camp's owner, Mid-Atlantic District closed beloved facilities at Camp Woodbrook, slated to become a reservoir in Maryland, and Camp Shiloh in northern Virginia. It also incurred a substantial debt from the various start-up costs for such a major project.

Rex Miller knew the challenges when he was called out of a general contractor position in Michigan to become the center's administrator in 1990. But he also saw the opportunities. He saw a chance to reshape the face of outdoor ministry.

"We felt if we developed a camp for kids it couldn't sustain itself in a timely manner," Miller said. "Therefore we had to develop a center for all ages, an across-the-board ministry. The facilities were going to have to be different."

And they are. The village's six cabins each contain their own bathroom and a state-mandated water fountain. The lodge has the look and feel of a ski chalet. A gleaming in-ground swimming pool sits next to a spacious bathhouse. Higher rental prices reflect a business approach. For some in the district, used to more rustic camp settings, it required a change in thinking.

"There was always a bit of hesitancy about its size and scope," said Sue Ellen Wheatley, chair of the district's strong Outdoor Ministry Commission. "The hardest thing is to get people to think differently about camp. It's not how most of us grew up thinking about camping.

"The people who go out and experience it have nothing but positive things to say, though. They like the facility and the hospitality there."

Walt Wiltschek

A view *of the lodge at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center.*

Hospitality has been one of Miller's key points in developing the center, as has been partnering with other agencies.

He joined forces with Hagerstown (Md.) Community College to offer Elderhostel programs at the center. Shepherd's Spring and Camp Mardela — the district's other camp, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland — have joined forces to offer a number of specialty camps each summer. On Earth Peace Assembly has held events there.

Miller has more dreams for the center, too, some of which are already moving forward.

This past fall's Mid-Atlantic district conference approved an additional loan of $86,000 to winterize the existing cabins and refurbish a basement room in the lodge as an additional conference room. With many more groups wanting to use the camp than the current facility permits, Miller hopes to significantly increase usage with the extra options. Year-round program staff members are also being sought.

In addition, Shepherd's Spring is launching a youth spirituality program called "The God-Centered Life," with a session for parents, mentors, and other interested adults this spring, and a week-long spirituality-focused camp for youth in early July. A partnership with the General Board's Youth/Young Adult office facilitated the project, and a planning committee from across the denomination has helped to develop it.

Some funding for the spirituality program also came via the insurance proceeds from a fire that destroyed the maintenance building in 1998, another case of success arising from challenge.

"My hopes are that we are able to develop a model where youth go into adulthood with a more adult faith than they do now, because many drop out," said Miller, a member of the Hagerstown (Md.) congregation. "We think it's going to enliven the church when youth get excited. We've seen it happen."

Amid all that, the initial debt of more than $1 million (out of a $3.5 million project) has been decreasing, to less than $880,000 as of Aug. 31. Three capital fund campaigns helped pay for the start-up costs and subsequent principal and interest payments. Much of the bank debt was taken over by loans from congregations and individuals in the district.

Shepherd's Spring has already been able to carry about two-thirds of the debt load out of its own operations, just under a decade since its birth. Gifts have provided the funds to cover the rest.

There have been other blessings, such as the fact that the Dunker Meetinghouse on Antietam Battlefield is nearby. Haynes, the chair of the camp's board for 1999, said it has provided an important opportunity to teach the denomination's history and heritage to a wider community.

And as the peaceful meetinghouse was situated in the center of a bloody Civil War battle, Haynes said the nearby outdoor ministries of Shepherd's Spring can be another way of Brethren being "right in the middle" of meeting people's needs today.

That echoes Miller's mission of making the center a "source of renewal." Paying off the remaining debt and filling the ongoing need for volunteers remain as challenges, but he feels good about the ministry that is being provided.

"After 10 years, it's still exciting to go to the office every morning," Miller said. "I think when I applied for the job I had some goals that were unstated. I wanted to be open to the Spirit and the energy in the district. In many ways, what has happened at Shepherd's Spring has far exceeded anything I ever envisioned."

Walt Wiltschek is associate pastor of the Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren. On Jan. 31 he begins his new position as manager of news services for the General Board.

on
earth
peace

Celebrating 25 years of peacemaking

With a proud past, On Earth Peace Assembly plans its future

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY WALT WILTSCHEK

Blessed are the peacemakers. One group of them certainly was blessed as it gathered for five days in late October.

The approximately 120 people who came to western Maryland for On Earth Peace Assembly's 25th anniversary celebration found renewal, insight, revitalization, and even warm sunshine.

Tom Hurst, OEPA's executive director, deemed the event an all-around success. "Who would have thought that in late October it would be sunny and warm the whole week?" Hurst said. "Everything went beyond expectations. It was wonderful. I think we planned the individual parts well, but it's like God took over and made the whole more than the sum of its parts. As I listen to people share, it's obvious that it became much more."

Some of the denomination's leading musicians; speakers and teachers in peace, justice, and service issues; and experts in Brethren history gathered for the event, held at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministries Center and the Hagerstown (Md.) Church of the Brethren.

Andy Murray *accepts recognition for peacemaking efforts on behalf of Juniata College peace studies program.*

Hurst developed the vision of a multiple-day event as he talked with OEPA board members and others, then began working with his staff to line up all the details over the past year. He wanted to find ways to celebrate the past, present, and future of the organization as it entered the next 25 years.

The final product offered an initial three days featuring a series of courses led by Don Durnbaugh, Phyllis Carter, and Ken Kreider, each focusing on different aspects of peacemaking. General Board staff members David Radcliff, Dan McFadden, and Merv Keeney added presentations on current Brethren involvement in their areas of expertise. In addition, small-group interaction times allowed more in-depth exploration of one of these areas of interest, and "coffeehouse" story-sharing times gave opportunities for participants to share powerful stories and assorted memories with each other.

Hurst said that folksinger Ruth Fitz of York, Pa., provided "the glue" by leading early-morning worship experiences that set the focus for each day. Air Force doctor Dennis Lipton, seeking classification as a conscientious objector, also managed to come as a last-minute addition to the program [see News, p. 8]. Participants surrounded him in a prayer circle and promised support.

Those days led into a two-day weekend program, bringing a choice of workshops on Saturday morning led by OEPA director Hurst, OEPA board members Dale Brown and Illana Naylor, and Ministry of Reconciliation coordinator Bob Gross. In the afternoon, participants could learn about the people and programs to be recognized at that evening's banquet, hear from Brethren Volunteer Service worker Bridget Marchio of Finksburg, Md., or take a tour of the Dunker Meetinghouse on nearby Antietam battlefield. Dale Brown, dressed in black and sporting his old-style Brethren beard, gave a history of the meetinghouse and drew in several curious tourists during his talk.

Recognized by OEPA at the banquet were the peace studies programs of Manchester and Juniata colleges, praised for providing "another way of learning and living," along with death penalty abolition activist SueZann Bosler and Baker Peace Institute director Andy Murray. The Brethren folk group Kindling (minus member Lee Krähenbühl, who had another engagement) wrapped up the evening with a concert. The Lee-less

SueZann Bosler *addresses the group after receiving the Barbara Daté Reconciliation Recognition.*

Bridget Marchio, *who just finished a Brethren Volunteer Service term near Littleton, Colo., was one of the workshop presenters, describing her experiences there. Here she plays with the children of OEPA program coordinator Barb Leininger Dickason, Morgan and Sean.*

three gave a moving and inspirational performance; pianist Shawn Kirchner joked that the group wanted "to pull out as many of our overt peace songs as we could" as he introduced "Peace Pilgrim's Prayer."

Following a coffeehouse time at Shepherd's Spring on Saturday evening, the celebration concluded back at Hagerstown Sunday morning with a time of worship. Roger Schrock, chosen as someone "who could push us into the future without fear and make us think about what it means to be peacemakers," according to Hurst, delivered the morning message of "Mirroring Peace."

Hurst said the event has convinced him that OEPA needs to be more involved with adults rather than just working with youth, as it primarily has in recent years. He said he also hopes to work at more projects in conjunction with General Board staff to combine the strengths of the two organizations. "We once again need to find ways to do events that not only lift up people of peace, but teach and prod also," Hurst said.

OEPA program coordinator Barb Leininger Dickason, meanwhile, summed up the spirit of the anniversary event as she concluded a historical recitation about the organization. Since its founding by M.R. Zigler, OEPA has been a General Board program, an independent entity, and now an Annual Conference agency. "One senses that the best is yet to come," Dickason said. "It is a storied history that is part of God's history in the world and the history of the Church of the Brethren."

Walt Wiltschek is associate pastor of the Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren. On Jan. 31 he begins his new position as manager of news services for the General Board.

Brethrening

Family values

My future daughter-in-law gave me a baffled look when I mentioned the possibility of a picnic. This was her first time to attend one of our family gatherings, so I assumed she was perhaps shy.

The weather had been sunny and dry all week. A beach outing with sandwiches, fruit, some chips, dessert seemed fine to me.

After we ate and fed scraps to the gulls we walked, enjoyed the waves whooshing, lapping our bare feet, the sun warming our backs. But she was quiet—polite, but she appeared to be pining for something.

I hoped she wasn't disappointed in our family. We gave no signs of discord. All seemed placid. The only screaming was that of the sea birds.

Later I learned the cause of her discontent. She was used to a traditional Thanksgiving feast—turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, turnips, corn, pies, as the Pilgrims had instituted. She must have had an inkling that day that the family she was about to join was non-conventional. Our only adhering to our foreparents' custom was the turkey in the sandwiches.

Another shock to our son's wife occurred a few years ago, during the Christmas season. The week before the holiday she stopped in, looked around the family room, and faced me, hands on hips. No longer shy nor even bewildered at our failure to follow established custom, just occasionally questioning our sanity, she asked, "Where's your tree?"

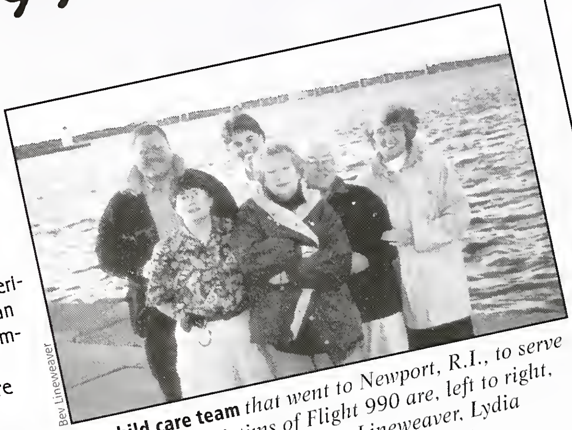
I pointed to a small stool beside the couch. On it stood my six-inch-high Christmas cactus, adorned with tiny lights and balls. She shook her head, rolled her eyes, left. The next day she brought a small potted Norfolk pine. "You need a real tree," she said.

Today that pine stands in the corner of the back yard, 12 feet tall.

She has occasionally confided that the thought of a holiday picnic rather than all of the kitchen work sounds inviting, but the smell of the meat roasting when we go there for Christmas dinner each year is hard to beat, maybe even better than turkey sandwiches on the beach. —Jean Lersch

Jean Lersch is a member of First Church of the Brethren, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Childcare team responds to EgyptAir Flight 990 disaster



Bev Lineweaver

The child care team *that went to Newport, R.I., to serve families of the victims of Flight 990 are, left to right, Doug and Cheryl Dekker, Bev Lineweaver, Lydia Walker, Gloria Cooper, and Sharon Gilbert.*

For the second time in five months, the Church of the Brethren CAIR (Childcare in Aviation Incident Response) Team was called upon to help with children whose families have lost loved ones in air disasters. In early June, four members of the CAIR Team were assigned to Little Rock, Ark., following the runway crash of an American Airlines jet. Immediately after the mysterious crash of EgyptAir Flight 990 into the Atlantic Ocean in the early hours of Oct. 31, 1999, six CAIR Team members were sent to Newport, R.I., site of the National Transportation Safety Board Operations Center where families of victims gathered.

"This response was longer and more emotionally intense than the American Airlines crash in Little Rock," said Lydia Walker, CAIR Team administrator. The CAIR Center, operated within the secured facilities of the American Red Cross Family Assistance Center, was open during National Transportation Safety Board briefings and other meetings with family members that were not appropriate for children.

The CAIR Center was staffed from early morning until fairly late in the evening for most of the first week. Children ranging in age from 11 months to 16 years benefited from a safe, kid-friendly environment and caring, trained, adult companionship during this extremely confusing and painful time.

Many of the children came into the CAIR Center two or three times a day. In addition to activities for the children and plenty of one-on-one attention for each child, parents were also comforted. The youngest children gave behavioral indications of the comfort and security they felt by falling asleep in a staff person's arms, by seeking out one or another child care staff members in the hotel, by protesting when parents came to pick them up. The young teens enjoyed "hanging out," playing board games, and engaging in imaginative play.

The Aviation Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996 was passed by Congress and signed by President Clinton on Oct. 9, 1996. Given impetus by TWA Flight 800 tragedy in the summer of 1996, this law gave the NTSB the additional responsibility of aiding the families of victims of aircraft accidents occurring in US territory. The American Red Cross has been designated by NTSB as the agency responsible for coordinating much of that care. The Red Cross selected the ER/SM Disaster Child Care program because of its credibility for 20 years, and its high standards for training and conduct in the field.

At present there are 25 CAIR Team members and more will be trained in the first part of this year. CAIR Team members are selected from already trained and experienced disaster child care personnel who are part of the Church of the Brethren ER/SM Disaster Child Care program. They undergo additional rigorous training before being assigne to an on-call CAIR Team. Teams of five personnel rotate on and off call for one month at a time.

The American Red Cross Family Assistance Center is now closed, but the investigation goes on. And the hearts and minds of CAIR Team members will never be the same as they carry touching memories of their experience in Rhode Island. Lydia Walker, CAIR Team coordinator, shares her reflections here.

—from Bridges, *the newsletter of Emergency Response/ Service Minist*

Flashbacks from a disaster scene

BY LYDIA WALKER

For 11 days in early November, I was one of those nameless persons, mentioned in news reports under the category of "hundreds of emergency relief personnel" who lived and worked in a secured compound in Newport, R.I.

The crash of an airliner, especially one as mysterious and terrible as EgyptAir Flight 990, generates much media attention. Government agencies, the New York Police Department, American Red Cross, all leap into emergency mode. I am asked frequently what it was like being there with families of victims, FBI investigators, Red Cross workers, government personnel? "How are you feeling? Are you okay?"

I realize these are expressions of love and concern . . . as though I might have become a victim of this tragedy, too. Even now, in my more or less normal routines, I still jump to turn up the radio at the mention of Flight 990. I think about the children who became part of our CAIR family during those days. I ask myself, what if I had lost loved ones on this flight?

I have flashbacks of the twilight scene at the memorial service on the shore of the Atlantic. A bright orange Coast Guard helicopter, with a basket of flowers, hovered for what seemed an eternity before turning and disappearing beyond the horizon.

I am okay. Changed, yes, but not damaged, as our Red Cross CAIR Team training taught us. So why make a big deal out of this? Does anyone get excited and sentimental about thousands of children who die of disease and starvation every day? Or people who are dying from AIDS or breast cancer? All of the statistics of the disaster plus all of the statistics of what Emergency Response/ CAIR Team personnel did in Newport, R.I., can be stated in one paragraph. "XX people died on Flight 990. A team of X volunteers worked a little over a week and cared for X number of children."

I ponder this. In some ways, this operation was like many other disaster responses with which Brethren folk are so familiar. One goes to help others, finds companions on the way, encounters obstacles and frustrations, sleeps poorly in a strange bed, goes without meals, gets lost in a strange town, comes home relieved to be home but satisfied to have been able to serve.

But the untold story, the faces, the sounds, the reflections burned into one's memory, cannot be summarized in one paragraph. Scraps from my journal help me to understand what really happened in Newport.

Getting a call early Sunday morning. I am already on my way to church. Getting on an airplane to fly to the very same airport where the ill-fated jet took off only hours earlier.

Why am I doing this? Because it's my job. Not because it's my "paid" job. Because I made the commitment to drop everything if the CAIR Team is called out with our partner, the American Red Cross. "We have a plane down. Get to JFK by mid-afternoon today."

I am going to be a comforting presence for the families and the youngsters who are all waiting to hear news, already grieving what they cannot admit is true. I am going because my team is counting on me, five others waiting to be told when to leave their home bases and join me in a CAIR Team operation.

In New York, my ID is checked by tired police who have been up all night. An early morning commuter flight takes me through fog to Newport, R.I.

I reflect on how the western mind screams out for conclusive answers. Why? How? Who did it? A world view that obsesses on numbers — how many casualties, how many bodies found, the size in millimeters of pieces of debris retrieved. Focused on preventing the next tragedy. But still grieving.

Then I reflect on the Middle Eastern mind, particularly the Islamic tradition, accepting Allah's will, focused on the faithful acts of prayer, not trying to discern God's reasons. And still grieving. How far apart we seem. How difficult the language barriers. How easy to judge and to stereotype. Yet how close we are as humans, created by the One God.

Now I see a chaplain put his hand gently on a man's shoulder and watch as the grieved one crumples into the arms of the chaplain. I see two women, two different cultures, speaking the language of motherhood. "Help me understand my child. How do I tell my son about his grandmother?" I see an exhausted infant, limp with sleep, snuggled across the broad chest of a CAIR Team member, a dad himself. I see bouquets of flowers and cards hand drawn by school children, expressions of sympathy from Americans.

A new friend wipes away her own tears and hugs me. I see love in action in this outpouring of concern for the families of 217 victims of EgyptAir Flight 990. I watch the ocean, ebbing and flowing, as though nothing out of the ordinary had happened at all.

The God of Hope is present in each of these moments. I open to receive the grace in each experience; there are gifts in every personal encounter, each child's request to play or be held, each wave reaching for the shore, each new dawn. M.

Lydia Walker, of Berkeley Springs, W.Va., is coordinator for training and outreach for Emergency Response/Service Ministries, a program of the Church of the Brethren General Board.

Letters

The October issue asked readers to write in with their dreams for the Church of the Brethren in the 21st century. Below are some of the dreams we received.

Courage to speak out

I pray that the Church of the Brethren will honor its heritage by continuing to speak for what is right, but equally important is to have the courage to speak out against all wrongs throughout the world. We must be willing to commit our lives to peace and be a church where all are welcome to have a strong relationship with God through Christ.

Robert D. Garner
Lititz, Pa.

Keep name to save energy

My dream for our church is that we use our energies to reach out to those who have not claimed the name of Jesus, not using that energy to change our Brethren name. Isaiah 62:2 tells us we will be given a new name. Let's wait!

Velma Bowman
New Windsor, Md.

Emphasize common beliefs

I dream of the day when the gospel will be taught that Jesus came to show and teach by His living how God the creator would have people live with all others of His creation. Christmas celebrations, worship services, and teaching would emphasize Jesus' living of God's "way," not emphasize the name of Jesus.

Worship should emphasize the common beliefs of all of God's people. It should not emphasize their differences. A person filled with God's spirit does not have a spirit of competition and exclusive knowledge.

This has been my dream since I was a young adult and I am now 84 years old. I feel sad to hear so much emphasis on the Christian religion compared to other religions. I do believe there are many of God's people who are not called Christian. The world needs to know and feel God's love for them.

D. Maxine Naragon
Pine Creek Church of the Brethren
North Liberty, Ind.

Gospel is the power of God

I have a vision of the Church of the Brethren accepting the challenge of Romans 1:16. I dream of the church being empowered by the gospel.

I dream that we call all to salvation in Christ. That we call all to Bible study. That we call all to be peacemakers. That we call all to be Good Samaritans. That we call all to forgive as God, in Christ, has forgiven us. That we call all to cultivate the fruits of the spirit. And that we call all to accept the anointing of their baptism and begin their ministry.

It is my dream that we all become open to the power of the gospel—the power of God!

Don Flint
Sterling Heights, Mich.

Would you drop a bomb on this child?

Then why do you pay someone who would?

All U.S. citizens are required to pay for war through their taxes. The Peace Tax Fund would allow people opposed to war because of deeply-held moral or religious beliefs to stop paying for it. They could pay their full taxes into a fund that would be used for non-military purposes only.

For more information, contact:

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR A
PEACE TAX FUND
2121 Decatur Place NW
Washington DC 20008-1923
(202) 483-3751

Brethren Service in Europe

I am blessed to see the November Messenger with its update on BVS in Europe. It is a joy to see the meaningful evolvement of projects since I served in Germany in the 1950s.

Clyde Carter
Daleville, Va.

Can CPT become an arm of the Church of the Brethren?

I was ready to share the following at an open microphone session at Annual Conference in Milwaukee, a session which never happened.

So now I share it with the Messenger readership:

War happens and so peacemaking must happen. Peacemaking comes from the *soul* of the Church of the Brethren; it is authentically us. In these times of war and violence, the church has a task. Peacemaking is active. It is the act of planting little colonies of life directly in the path of death and its scourges.

Peacemaking *can* be a fearful act, but in Christian Peacemaker Teams we have experienced it as a joyful act. Our experience has been that God carries us in that peacemaking action.

In CPT we need active, spiritual peacemakers of all ages who are willing to act to prevent the violence, racism and injustice of war before it destroys people. The Church of the Brethren has done well the task of rebuilding after wars; it is time now for God's people to take the initiative. We must be peacemakers before and during to stop the wars.

CPT recently has had requests for violence reduction help from Puerto Rico, Colombia, centers of urban injustice and violence in the US, aboriginal groups in Canada, the conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, and from India. God's call is for an abundance of peace warriors.

This time and this call is uniquely ours in the Church of the Brethren. This task can become our identity (and perhaps impact our name as the editor suggests). How can we graft CPT on as an ecumenical arm of the Church of the Brethren?

Cliff Kindy
North Manchester, Ind.

Why is Sarah Major smiling after all these years?

Because her story is now being told!

Infamous in the mid 1800s as a woman preacher in a tradition controlled by men, Sister Sarah bravely preached the gospel wherever people invited her to speak. In *An Uncommon Woman*, Nancy Kettering Frye provides details, facts, and stories about the life of the first woman preacher in the Church of the Brethren. Step into the early 19th century and meet the men and women who influenced Sarah Righter Major's life and supported her preaching ministry.

New from Brethren Press

An Uncommon Woman:
The Life and Times
of Sarah Righter Major
by Nancy Kettering Frye

$6 95 plus shipping & handling

Brethren Press
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, Illinois 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712
fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

Classified Ads

CONFERENCES

A Regional Conference on Spiritual Renewal, Renovaré, with Richard Foster and team is being sponsored by the Atlantic Northeast District on March 10th and 11th, 2000 at Elizabethtown College. The conference will benefit those seeking a balanced approach to spirituality. Call the District Office at 717-367-4730 to register at $25.00. Seating limited to 840. David Young, co-chair Spiritual Renewal Team, young_dsy464@desupernet.net.

INVITATION

First Church of the Brethren in Winter Park, Florida, will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary on February 12 and 13, 2000. All former members and friends are invited to join in a Saturday evening time of memory sharing and a Sunday morning celebration. Greetings, pictures and memorabilia will be appreciated. To send items, obtain additional information, or make reservations for a Sunday noon Anniversary Dinner, please write to First Church of the Brethren, 1721 Harmon Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789 (telephone and fax: 407-644-3981).

Yes, there is a Church of the Brethren in Jacksonville, Florida. It is nestled one mile south of I-10 (exit 55) between I-95 and I-295 -(between Cassat and Hamilton). Pastor Herb Weaver invites you to come and worship with us. Phone 904-384-3375.

Stay at the Hospitality House in St. Petersburg Fla.—a week, two weeks, a month—any time of the year. Everything furnished but your food. Sleeps up to 8 conveniently (all of one party). Clergy or laity families welcome. Reasonable donation requested. Contact for details, cost, scheduling, and reservation form: First Church of the Brethren, 3651 71st Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710-(727)381-0709-PnJLersch@juno.com. Come and let us enjoy your friendship!

TRAVEL

Travel with a purpose to: Eastern Europe and the "Passion Play," July 31 to August 14, 2000, with Wendell and Joan Bohrer. Visit Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava, Krakow, Warsaw and much more. First Class tickets to the Passion Play, Folklore Show in Warsaw, Prague and Budapest. A Danube River Cruise in Budapest. Buffet breakfast and dinner throughout. Contact the Bohrers by mail—3651 US Hwy 27 S. #40, Sebring, FL 33870.0 Tel/Fax 941-382-9371. E-mail rdwboh@strato.net

Travel with us by coach to Annual Conference in Kansas City, leaving Elizabethtown, July 13, returning July 21. Visit Bethany Seminary in Richmond, Indiana enroute. For information, please write to J. Kenneth Kreider, 1300 Sheaffer Rd, Elizabethtown PA 17022.

Travel to the White Continent—Antarctica—including Argentina and Uruguay, January, 2001. Optional visits to Iguassau Falls and Chile available. Write to J. Kenneth Kreider, 1300 Sheaffer Road, Elizabethtown PA 17022.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Second Mile peace curriculum is seeking a graphic designer to work on a contract basis. Responsibilities include design and layout for all components. Bulk of work will be in fall 2000, some in summer 2001. Applicants are to submit a portfolio. Short-listed applicants will be asked to provide sample design. Apply by Feb. 15, 2000. For more information contact Doug Krehbiel, 316-283-5100, dougk@gcmc.org. Second Mile materials will help congregations proclaim and be signs of Christ's peace in a broken world.

Camp Alexander Mack

God's Leading... Our Legacy
Celebrating 75 Years! (1925-2000)

We invite you to our special anniversary events in 2000:

January 16	"I Have a Dream" Friends Dinner
February 11-12	Sweetheart Weekend
March 31-April 2	"Spring into Wellness" Weekend
April 21-22	Good Friday Easter Play Retreat
May 20	A.M. Golf Outing; Afternoon Worship w/ Andrew Young & Dedication of New Mural & Shamberger Cabin
June 25	P.M. Concert w/ Youth Camp
July 8	Family Carnival
August 12-13	Staff Reunion Weekend
September 8-9/15-16	District Conferences @ Mack
September 24	P.M. Golf Outing @ Honeywell
October 7	Alexander Mack Festival
November 19	Volunteer Honors Banquet
December 2-9	Caribbean Cruise

We need your help!!!

If you know the whereabouts of any past Camp Mack staff members, please notify us so that we may invite them to our Staff Reunion.

Phone: (219)658-4831 • Email: campmack@npcc.net • Website: www.campmack.org

Turning Points

New members
Bear Creek, Dayton, Ohio: Melissa Bucher, Dustin O'Hair, Marcie O'Hair, Lindsey Wenzel
Black Rock, Glenville, Pa.: Megan Nowlin, Nicole Stremmel, Gerald Gebhart, Wynne Hoffacker
Charlottesville, Va.: Dan and Mary McCombs
Clover Creek, Fredericksburg, Pa.: Carrie King, Kalie Lynn, Kelly Smith, Tyler Steele, Justine Wareham, Pamela Acker, Kathryn Byler, David Criswell, Chelsea Doutt, Matthew Hoover
Coventry, Pottstown, Pa.: James Padgett, Sandra Bacon, Bethany Egolf, Briana Keene, Zachary Batdorf, Aaron Farman, David High, Sara High, Christina Hostetter, Joey Johnson, Kenneth Long, Barbara Ranreri, Roger Clark, Carol Clark, Catherine Taylor, Kim Johnson, Melissa Melroy, Kathi O'Brien, David Pence, Jane Pence
Faith, Batavia, Ill.: Brenda Camras, Lenore Freitag, Wayne Goebel
Friendship, Linthicum, Md.: Chris and Tara Adams, Ralph Fletcher
Gortner Union, Oakland, Md.: Anthony Sean McGoldrick, Patricia Graham
Green Tree, Oaks, Pa.: Joe and Lorie Corallo, Stan and Barbara Reinhold, Connie Young
Hanover, Pa.: Alex Despines, Alison Despines, Darby Jo Kline, Michael McClain, Sonia McClain, Allison McClain, Charles Sell, Shirley Stuart
Independence, Kan.: Dale McMaster, Debra McMaster, Pauline Wolf
Leakes Chapel, Stanley, Va.: Cindy Good, Vanessa Hilliard, Jason Jenkins, Bryan Nevitt, Vicki Nevitt, Lynn Huffman, Brittany Huffman,Eric Turner, Darlene Comer, Wesley Atkins, Adam Atkins, April Atkins,Chris Turner, Chris Dinges, Frances Moyer, Jean Silvious, Christina Sylvious, William Caracofe, Jill Young, Peggy Lucas, Lisa Turner
Lebanon, Mt. Sidney, Va.: Jay and Faith McDowell
Lewiston, Minn.: Bill Hemsey, Marlene Hemsey, Myrna Rian
Long Green Valley, Glen Arm, Md.: Terri Smyth, John Ness
Maple Grove, Ashland, Ohio: Angela Barr, Jack Gray, John Stutzman, Brooke Wesner
Mohler, Ephrata, Pa.: Jennifer Miller, Stephanie Miller, Devon Goodman, Alysia Goodman, Deborah Berry, Zacharey Duty, Laura Shupp, Normie Ressler, Elizabeth Duty
Pasadena, Calif.: Malissa Maria Bishop
Philadelphia First, Wyndmoor, Pa.: Angela Finet
Pleasant View, Burkittsville, Md.: Amy Lorraine Moser
Ridgely, Md.: Joshua Judy, Jeffrey Voorhees, Brandi Moody
St. Petersburg, Fla.: Christian Figueroa
San Diego, Calif.: Susan Sanner, Carol Hayden, John Davis
Sebring, Fla.: Paul Becker, Jorge Cordero, Felicita Cordero, Bernard Cornetta, Cheryl Cornetta, Mildred Kington, Lela Lilyquist, Richard McAninch, Linda McAninch, Robert McAninch, Judy McAninch, Jane Robinson, Frank Peiffer, Jane Peiffer
Stanley, Wis.: Laverne Kroeplin, Betty Kroeplin, Megan Schunk, Stacy Sherwood, Travis Alger, Sarah Alger, Lori Alger, Steve Shilts, Margaret Sprague, Lynette Reineke
Stover Memorial, Des Moines, Iowa: Doris Covalt
Trotwood, Ohio: Eric Bohannon, Heather Boos, Ryan Snyder, Keisha Ford
Tucson, Ariz.: Dorothy Gruhn, Ralph Gruhn, Mary Stephey, John Barnes, Denise Abshear, Kristy Ramirez, Kenneth Ramirez

Wedding anniversaries
Bechtelheimer, John and Retha, Glendale, Ariz., 50
Bollinger, Jacob and Miriam, Ephrata, Pa., 50
Bouse, Wayne and Marie, Silver Lake, Ind., 65
Bowser, D. Luke, Jr., and Lola, Martinsburg, Pa., 55
Brookins, Wilbur and Fern, Goshen, Ind., 60
Fike, Earle Jr. and Jean, Bridgewater, Va., 50
Fryman, Robert and Waneta, New Lebanon, Ohio, 50
Haltry, Ross and Mary, Shippensburg, Pa., 60
Heggenstaller, Joe and Doris, Loganton, Pa., 50
Hertzler, Earl and Eva, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 55
Keim, Maurice and Naomi, Sebring, Fla., 65
Mast, Fred and Frances, Shiremanstown, Pa., 50
Rogers, Charles and Grace, New Paris, Ind., 55
Snavely. Harold and Rowena, Fruitland, Idaho, 50
Ziegler, Jesse and Harriet, Dayton, Ohio, 60

Deaths
Allison, Anna, 91, Dallastown, Pa., April 1
Ammermann, Eleanor Ruth, 69, Roanoke, Va.. Oct. 28
Applegate, Wayne, 82, Norton, Kan., Sept. 22
Baker, Kenneth M., 81, Martinsburg, Pa., July 8, 1998
Beahm, Robert W., 81, Luray, Va., Sept. 26
Bollinger, Eva M., 98, Thurmont, Md., Oct. 30
Brant, Phyllis M., 71, Spring Grove, Pa., Sept. 19
Brumbaugh, Arlan Scott, 35, Martinsburg, Pa., Oct. 9
Brumbaugh, Barbara Jo "Buffy," 33, Martinsburg, Pa., Oct. 9
Bucher, Ethel, 96, Canton, Ill., July 14
Buryanek, Ruth, 94, McPherson, Kan., Oct. 23
Carpenter, Larry Joseph, Shepherdstown, W.Va., Oct. 31
Cash, Alma F., 83, Harrisonburg, Va., Oct. 9
Clayton, Anna F., 98, Glen Arm, Md., Oct. 14
Corle, J. Milton, 82, Martinsburg, Pa., March 8, 1998
Corle, Richard E., 52, Martinsburg, Pa., Sept. 9. 1998
Dilling, Howard A., 84, East Freedom, Pa., Dec. 16, 1997
Downie, Mark, 50, Glenville, Pa., May 10
Driver, Sara Louise, 93, Bluffton, Ohio, Sept. 30
Fulk, Vada V., 86, Fulks Run, Va., Oct. 22
Funkhouser, Clyde W., 64. Strasburg, Va., Oct. 7
Gartland, G. Harold, 80, Martinsburg, Pa., Oct. 27
Gebhardt, Anne E., 93, Oaks, Pa., June 19
Groff, Everett, Sebring, Fla., Oct. 9
Heefner, Martha. 99, Waynesboro, Pa.. Oct. 7
Heisey, Wilbur, 78, Brighton, Mich., Nov. 2
Hildreth, Lucille, 79, San Diego, Calif., Aug. 7
Howe, S. Ruth, 98, Bridgewater, Va., Oct. 10
Hunsberger, A. Marie, 88, Phoenixville, Pa., July 27
Ingram, Cleta A., 84, Pottstown, Pa., Oct. 10
Jones, Marcia, 71, La Place, Ill., Oct. 31
Kaiser, Rodney, 53, Hanover, Pa., July 19
Keith, Clair, 93, Roaring Spring, Pa.
Kinzie, Virgil M., 93, Haxtun, Colo., Aug. 13
LaRoche, Earl, 92, Live Oak, Calif., Oct. 20
Laughman, Roy M., Sr., 90, New Oxford, Pa., Oct. 27
Laughman, Ruth, 90, Glen Rock, Pa., June 7
Leininger, Verne E., 81, Stryker, Ohio, Sept. 28
Louey, Daisy, 87, New Oxford, Pa., March 14
McDaniel, Constance, 85, Weyers Cave, Va., Oct. 1
March, William C., 66, Phoenixville, Pa., April 1
Marshall, Doris, 66, Hanover, Pa., Nov. 16
Marshall, Melvin, 84, Hanover, Pa., April 9
Metzler, Elwood D., 84, Curryville, Pa., Oct. 27
Michael, James I., 66, Mt. Solon, Va., Sept. 25
Middlekauff, John, Sebring, Fla., Oct. 18
Montel, Lamoin. 79, N. Manchester, Ind., April 1
Nott, Machree, 84, Millers, Md., Sept. 21
Peters, Kathryn, Sebring, Fla., Oct. 24
Ready, Robert, 62, Charlottesville, Va., Oct. 18
Rill, R. Vernon, 59, Hanover, Pa., May 14
Ross, Earl Franklin, 75, Kansas City, Kan., Oct. 7
Schechter, Anna Rolston, 94, Sheldon, Iowa, Dec. 27, 1998
Shaffer, Wilbur, 72, Hanover, Pa., Sept. 13
Shull, Harriett M., 65, Claypool, Ind., Oct. 28
Simmons, Dorothy W., 65, Charlottesville, Va., Aug. 28
Smith, Carl L., 51, Williamsburg, Pa., Oct. 7
Snook, Edna, 83, Yuma, Colo., April 19
Steele, William L., 71, Roaring Spring, Pa., March 4, 1998
Steward, Virginia, 87, Ashland, Ohio, Oct. 25
Sue, Jenny, 53, Fenton, Mich., Oct. 25
Swihart, Ruby, 84, N. Manchester, Ind., Jan. 20
Underwood, Jim, Haxtun, Colo., July 29
Warlitner, Alice V., 91, Harrisonburg, Va., Nov. 2
Weaver, Rufus L., 85, Fredericksburg, Pa., Oct. 28
Weller, Helen, 78, Newburg, Pa.. Sept. 7
Werner, Alice, 83, Lineboro, Md., Aug. 19
Whisler, Kathryn Freed, 87, N. Manchester, Ind., Nov. 7
Wilcox, Sean C., 21, Kalamazoo, Mich., Oct. 26
Wildasin, Hilda M.. 86, Hanover, Pa., Aug. 13
Wildasin, Roy H., 85, New Oxford, Pa., Oct. 28
Wine, Clarence, 86, Mt. Sidney, Va., May 27
Wittler, Albert, Sebring, Fla., May 2
Wood, Tom, 87, Charlottesville, Va., Sept. 11
Woodward, Janice D., 43, Stanley, Va., Oct. 13
Worley, Laverne, 81, New Oxford, Pa., July 30

Licensings
Bollinger, Genhi, Sept. 11. Thurmont, Md.
Brockway, Bonnie J., May 7, New Enterpise, Pa.
Burkindine, Catherine, Sept. 11. Reisterstown. Md.
Dinterman, Dale, Sept. 11, Piney Creek, Taneytown, Md.
Keegan, Jeremy, Sept. 11, Danville, Ohio
Moats, Susan, Sept. 11, Reisterstown, Md.
Myers, Peter, Sept. 11, Frederick, Md.
Naill, Janet, Sept. 11, Locust Grove, Mount Airy, Md.
Tate, Ted, Sept. 11, Painesville, Ohio

Ordinations
Davis, Linda E. S., Sept. 1, Church of the Living Savior, McFarland, Calif.
Elmore, Carolyn, Sept. 11, Midland, Va.
Flory, Brian T., Oct. 19, Bridgewater, Va.
Gaver, B. Joanne, Sept. 11, Thurmont, Md.
Knotts, Donald, July 17, Brookside, Aurora, W.Va.
Lindley, Kyle, Aug. 21, Salkum, Wash.
Petcher, Richard L., May 15, Cedar Creek, Citronelle, Ala.
Rose, Harold W., May 15, Cumberland, Clintwood, Va.

Pastoral placement
Coates, Earl E., to Wawaka, Ind.
Frey, William R., Sr., from Wiley, Colo., to Roanoke, La.
Handley, Randall, from Trinity, Blountville, Tenn., to Pleasant Grove, Red Hill, Tenn.
Hood, Dana, to Guernsey, Monticello, Ind.
Johnson, Terry, from White Horn, Bulls Gap, Tenn., to Walnut Grove, Damascus, Va.
Kontra, Pete, from Oakland, Bradford, Ohio, to Spring Creek, Hershey, Pa.
Tate, Ted, to Painesville, Ohio
Yelinek, Prue, from interim to permanent, Waynesboro, Pa.

Editorial

Bible study and the Kingdom of God

What is the kingdom of God like for you? The pastor asks the question and we are off into another Bible study, this one on the parables of Matthew.

You'd think after so many of us have spent a lifetime going to Bible studies we'd have that book pretty well figured out by now, but we keep going back for more, don't we? I enjoy the kind of Bible studies that are like college lectures led by a scholar, the kind that are offered at Annual Conference. And I recall a few study sessions which brought to life a scripture passage so that I will ever after associate the scripture with that time and place. But most Bible studies are neither scholarly nor particularly memorable, they just quietly add a little more understanding of God's Word and a little more texture to life. At our church we usually just grapple together, freely sharing our ignorance and our experience, hoping that through it God will feed us a little something new. Mechtild of Magdeburg, the 13th-century poet, described the modest gain of such an exercise: "Of the heavenly things God has shown me, I can speak but a little word, not more than a honeybee can carry away on its foot from an overflowing jar."

But what is the kingdom of God like? "To me the kingdom of God is like having your family home for the holidays," says one of us. "To me the kingdom of God is like peace in Northern Ireland," says another. We ponder together whether the kingdom is personal or political. Is it now or not yet? We go to the Bible to see if it will tell us the answer but it gives us more questions. An exasperated lady told the leader of one Bible study that her husband always asks her what she learned, but she has to tell him she comes away with more questions than answers. "We must learn to appreciate the mystery of God," the leader said. "Thank God for the questions."

What is the kingdom like? "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but . . . an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat . . . ." We turn our attention to the parable of the weeds among the wheat, Matthew 13: 24-30. The householder told his workers to let the weeds and the wheat grow together until the harvest. From an example in our study material we agree that church life is like weeds and wheat growing together. Sometimes our fellow church members are the weeds we need to tolerate; other times we ourselves become the weeds others have to tolerate.

Bible study is a place for me to learn tolerance. For years I was in study groups with Charlie who, no matter what the point or the question, always had the same answer. "It all comes back to love, the love we have for each other and the love God has for us." Though that was more often true than not, there were times when I wanted to wrap Charlie's love around his throat and strangle him with it if he said it one more time! There was another case in point when our "weeds and wheat" discussion veered naturally to the school situation in Decatur, the next town east of us, where Jesse Jackson was making national news for his efforts to get boys who had been expelled back into school. To my mind anybody who reads the Bible seriously would agree that the boys deserved a second chance. But my Bible study colleague seemed equally convinced that Jesse Jackson should go back home and mind his own business. I left thinking my brother in Christ was making a real weed of himself tonight.

Studying the Bible together we get to know each other. When we came to the parable of the mustard seed, we got a chuckle from discovering which of us were the baby boomers who remembered the mustard seed necklaces girls used to wear. Others were too old or too young. We got to know Alberta, new to our church, when the birds of the air came to make nests in the mustard tree's branches (Matt. 13:32). We learned she is an avid birdwatcher, so devoted to the creatures who visit her feeder she gives them names.

Often in Bible studies I've noticed there is one who doesn't say much but when that person speaks people listen. When we came to the "pearl of great price" (Matt. 13:45) we spent a lot of time on the question of what is valuable in life. For what would we sell all we have to buy? We would mortgage all we own for a house, but would we do that for Jesus? Some said probably; some said maybe. Then as we all were running our mouths about what price we would be willing to pay for God, Becky said quietly, "I've been thinking." We all stopped to listen. "We are the pearl." What? "We are the pearl of great value. For us God gave all he had."

Well, she turned that story around, and turned me around with it. Of course! It's not about what I do for God but what God has done for me. Being called a pearl left me speechless for once. And I understood better the lines in Matthew 13:15 that explain why Jesus told his followers parables—so they might "look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn—and I would heal them." Soon after, our pastor brings this session to a close, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like studying the Bible together around a table with friends."—FLETCHER FARRAR

INVEST

IN AN AFFORDABLE EDUCATION:

A Brethren College Education

MANCHESTER COLLEGE

BRETHREN COLLEGES PROVIDE:

More For Your Money - Comprehensive financial aid programs reduce the "sticker price" to a net cost most Brethren families can afford.

A Quality Academic Education - Breadth of curriculum and small faculty/student ratios that personalize the learning environment.

A Values Centered Education - Learning for life that goes beyond textbooks to include exploration of values such as peace, justice, non-violence, human dignity, and service.

Leadership Opportunities - Through participation in numerous athletics, clubs, organizations, fine and performing arts, and student government.

Sound Fiscal Management - Brethren Colleges administer their resources well through implementation of sound fiscal management principles.

Check us out: Call **1-800-323-8039**
email us: **cobcoa_gb@brethren.org**
visit our website: **www.cobcoa.org**

Church of the Brethren Collaboration on Admissions
COBCOA

GIFTS *of* LIVING WATER

Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water. —John 7:38b

Loving God, in you we find healing waters for weary hearts,
soothing waters for aching feet, quenching waters for thirsty souls.
Grant that our lives be like a spring whose waters never fail,
a watered garden bearing fruit for many.
Through Jesus Christ, the water of life, we pray. Amen.

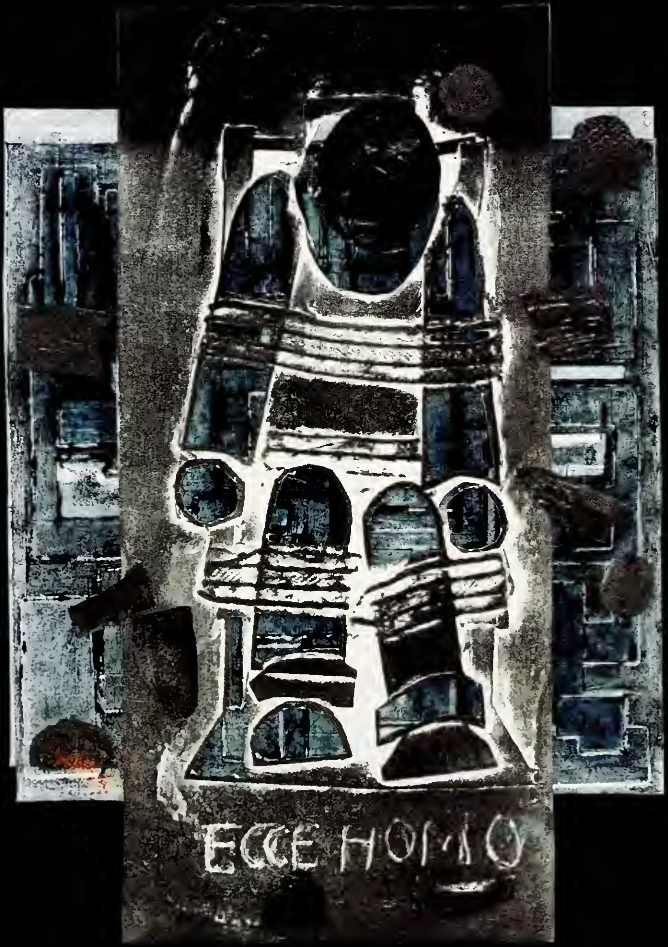
ONE GREAT HOUR *of* SHARING
Church of the Brethren General Board
1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 (800 323-8039)

Church of the Brethren March 2000 www.brethren.org

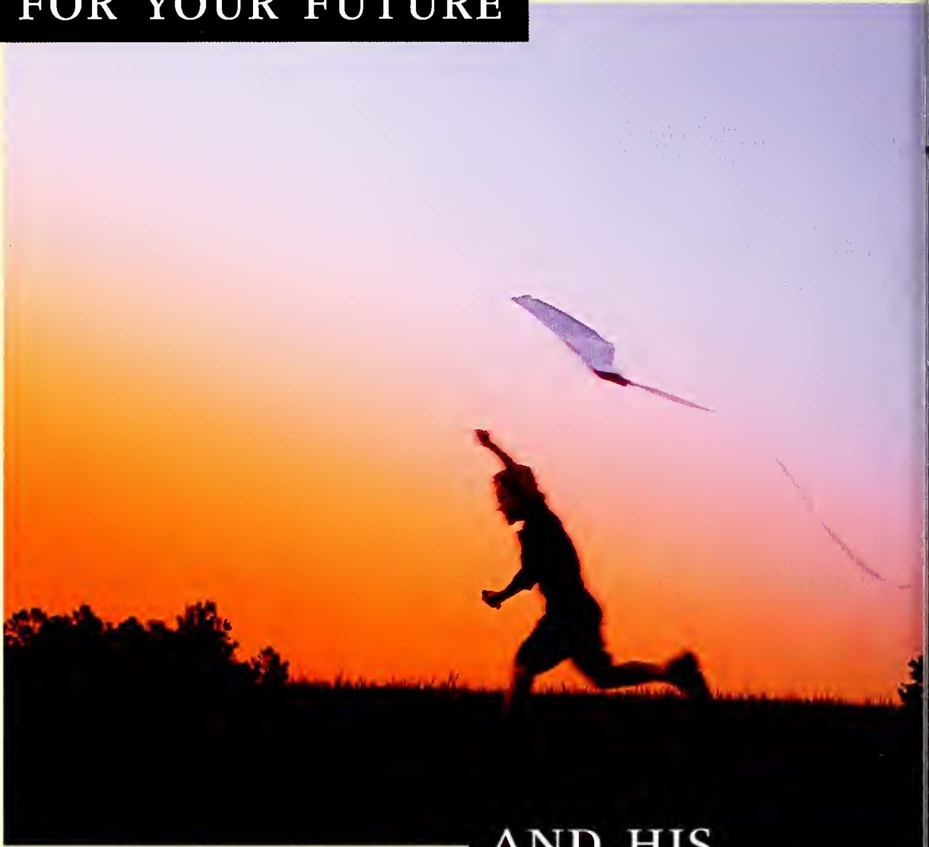
Messenger

'I was in prison and you visited me'

Letters to death row



INVEST FOR YOUR FUTURE



AND HIS

Introducing two no-load mutual funds that provide opportunities for long-term growth through socially responsive investing. You can invest in strong companies without compromising your core values. In fact, through investor advocacy, invested money can help influence positive change within established corporations. These mutual funds are subject to stock market fluctuations.

For more information including charges, expenses, and ongoing fees, you may request a prospectus by calling **800-746-1505 ext. 376**. Read the prospectus carefully before investing or sending money.

STRONG INVESTMENTS WITH BRETHREN VALUES

WALDEN/BBT
SOCIAL INDEX FUNDS

The Investment Adviser for the funds is Walden Asset Management, a division of United States Trust Company of Boston, who receives a fee for their services. The Churc of the Brethren Benefit Trust, Inc., serves as a consultant to the Funds' Adviser on issues concerning international peace and justice and is paid a fee directly by the Adviser for such services. BISYS Fund Services is the Funds' Distributor and is not affiliated with Walden Asset Management or Brethren Benefit Trust, Inc.

03/00

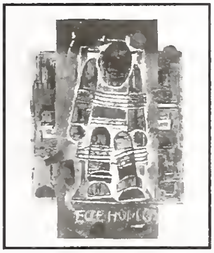
Vol. 149, No. 2 March 2000 www.brethren.org

Messenger

Editor: Fletcher Farrar
News: Walt Wiltschek
Subscriptions: Peggy Reinacher
Publisher: Wendy McFadden
Designer: Marianne Sackett
Advertising: Russ Matteson

Behold the man

On the cover: The print by Ruth Aukerman is rich in symbolism and rich in connection to this month's cover story on the Death Row Support Project, a letter-writing ministry to prisoners on death row (p. 10). It was through DRSP that Ruth and her husband, the late Dale Aukerman, began writing to Ronnie Dunkins on death row. The correspondence continued eight years. "He was like a son to us," Ruth said. Dale Aukerman went to witness Dunkins' execution in the Alabama electric chair on July 14, 1989. An op-ed article he wrote for the *Washington Post* describing the botched electrocution—it had to be done twice—caused a furor.



Ruth reacted to Dunkins' execution by creating this work of art. Included in the print are both the cross and stones, two forms of execution used in Jesus' day. The legend on the work is "Ecce homo," Latin for "Behold the man." These were Pilate's words when he presented Jesus, with whom he could find no fault, to the angry crowd (John 19:5). The words suggest the complicity of the crowd and the complicity of us all. "Christ is always standing with the victim," Ruth says. "Whenever anyone is executed, we are there as ones who are also to blame."

Though losing friends is painful—her second death row correspondent was executed last year—she continues, now writing to a third condemned man. She encourages others to volunteer for the Death Row Support Project. "We gain more from it than we give," she says. "They are so grateful. A lot of them are there because of a lack of love in their lives."

Ruth Aukerman, of Union Bridge, Md., is a professional artist and art teacher. She is a member of Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren.

BREA HE CHAINS
14

10 Death Row Support Project
For more than 20 years, Rachel Gross has been connecting volunteer correspondents with "pen pals" on death row through DRSP, a ministry of the General Board. Simple letter-writing not only comforts prisoners, it raises consciousness as well.

14 Jubilee 2000
A worldwide campaign to cancel the international debt of 41 impoverished countries is gathering steam. Heather Nolen, a Church of the Brethren member working for Church World Service, explains how concerned Christians can help, in the spirit of jubilee.

18 Renewal begins with prayer
Author and lecturer David Young, a Church of the Brethren pastor, writes that spiritual formation and servant leadership are keys to church renewal.

22 A Balkan journey
It is a long way from Pennsylvania Brethren territory to the killing fields of Kosovo. But on that journey Andrew Loomis made important connections from his peacemaking background to practical politics.

25 Gifts of Living Water
Mervin Keeney, director of Global Mission Partnerships, reflects on the theme of One Great Hour of Sharing, the ecumenical offering emphasis. When we receive God's gift of living water we share it with others around the world.

Departments

2 From the Publisher
3 In Touch
6 News
28 Letters
31 Turning Points
32 Editorial

From the Publisher

At our house, the tooth fairy brings 50 cents and a one-inch personal note written in six-point type on a tooth fairy-size computer. Over the years she's been remarkably competent. The money and the note showed up when our son lost a tooth at Annual Conference, and again when he lost one while visiting relatives in Indiana. She even delivered the goods when a tooth was accidently swallowed.

But the tooth fairy seems to have reached middle age: Lately she keeps forgetting her duties. Our oldest smiles sweetly and says, "Please tell the tooth fairy that I'm leaving my tooth on the table so it's easier for her to find." I nod my good intentions, and then promptly forget by the time bedtime prayers have been said.

I know what's happening. My mental lapses began the same time the children stopped believing in the tooth fairy. Though my intentions are the same, the fact that the kids no longer believe has unconsciously rearranged my priorities.

That makes me wonder whether the rest of my priorities get rearranged unintentionally too. Do my priorities belie what I say I believe? If I really believe in the power of prayer, shouldn't I be praying without ceasing? If I really believe the good news, shouldn't I overflow with the joy of the Spirit?

Back when I first became acquainted with the Brethren, what impressed me most was the sense I had that these people live out on Monday what they say they believe on Sunday. I'm not sure what the tangible differences were between the Brethren and the other brands of Christians with whom I had been more familiar. I simply knew that Brethren discipleship was obvious. I saw that Brethren beliefs and values were deeply held and that they showed in everyday life.

I liked that authenticity. Two decades later I can still say the Brethren live up to that (most of the time). I'm going to keep trying to live up to that ideal.

And someday when my youngest loses her first tooth and the tooth fairy matters again, I'm quite sure that little winged creature will come through on time. Because the things that matter to us we don't forget.

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

Messenger
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:
preinacher_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 847-742-5100
Fax: 847-742-6103

Display advertising:
rmatteson_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039
Fax: 847-742-1407

Editorial:
ffarrar_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 217-525-9083
Fax: 217-525-9269

Subscription rates:
$16.50 individual rate
$12.50 church individual plan
$10.50 church group plan
$10.50 gift subscriptions

If you move, clip address label and send with new address to Messenger Subscriptions, at the above address. Allow at least five weeks for address change.

Connect electronically:
For a free subscription to *Newsline*, the Church of the Brethren e-mail news report, write cobnews@aol.com.

To view the official Church of the Brethren Web site, point your browser to http://www.brethren.org.

Messenger is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage matter Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 17, 1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of the Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religion News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Biblical quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New Revised Standard Version. Messenger is published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Church of the Brethren General Board. Periodical postage paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing office, April 1998. Copyright 1999, Church of the Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0355.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Messenger, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

Printed on recycled paper

Junko Kachime *with BVS volunteer Larry Petry at Mt. Daisen, Japan.*

Japanese friend brings BVS couple unexpected gifts of love and peace

It was Wednesday, our busiest day. A phone call came from Chizuko, one of our dearest volunteer helpers. A friend of hers, Junko, from the other side of Japan, was with her and wanted to bring us photographs she had taken of former American volunteers. She wanted to come today.

I thought of saying, "Just ask her to mail the photos to us." But Chizuko is very dedicated, so I said, "Fine. Can you bring her at four o'clock?"

Chizuko and her friend, Junko, come in and we sit down for tea. Junko speaks little English, I speak little Japanese, so Chizuko translates. Three years ago some American volunteers and Chizuko went to climb Mt. Daisen, several hours trip from Hiroshima. Junko is a staff person at the Mt. Daisen hotel and also a photographer, so she took photos of the group. Today is her first opportunity to deliver the photos to World Friendship Center in Hiroshima.

We talk small talk. We are the same age, 61. We are both interested in peace. She comments on our framed photo of paper lanterns floating on the Motoyasu River in memory of the A-bomb victims. I show her other pictures by the same photographer, Paul Quayle. Some of the photos show A-bomb victims.

I can see Junko's memory moving back to 1945. "I was six years old," Junko begins. "My father was a farmer in southern Kyushu. There was an army airfield near our house. Every morning a siren blew and planes took off. Our teachers led us out to wave to the pilots, and the pilots waved back. But in the evening, no planes returned."

I realized that these were Kamikaze pilots flying to attack the American fleet off Okinawa. They killed my childhood neighbor. Junko's eyes confirmed my realization. So many strong young men, flying to kill and to die.

"One day an American plane flew over. A bomb fell out and our house was broken. Everyone was running and shouting, and a lady fell and was having a baby. I ran into our broken house and climbed into our iron bathtub. I sat for a long time until finally my father came and took me out.

"Then the army told us the war was over and the Americans were coming. The Americans would kill us and do terrible things. We hid. When I saw the Americans I was very afraid, but they tossed chocolates to us. They gave us food.

"Our clothes were all in tatters, our town was ruined, and we were very ashamed. We were embarrassed to be seen in such a condition. But the Americans gave us some of their clothes to wear. They helped us fix our town. They were not terrible, they were kind, and we became unashamed."

Then Junko took both my hands in hers, something that Japanese rarely do. "All these things happened 54 years ago. For 54 years I have wanted to thank an American. Thank you, thank you." Sometimes tears speak more loudly than words.

We have seen much pain in the last century, and much evil. But on this Wednesday in Hiroshima, a gift was given. A gift of remembered kindness. A gift of reconciliation. A gift of hope. Our prayer for all people is that the coming of a new century will awaken in all of us some good memories, and some good hopes. —Allan Smyth, Hiroshima, Japan

Editor's note: *Allan and Vercey Smyth are Brethren Volunteer Service retiree volunteers serving a two-year term at the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima, Japan. For 35 years, the World Friendship Center has worked with peacemakers around the world to build friendship bridges on a person-to-person basis. Couples interested in serving in Hiroshima can contact the BVS office in Elgin. The other BVS volunteers referred to in this story are Larry and Alice Petry, of Lakemore, Ohio, who have been Brethren volunteers in many projects.*

Manchester church to be dedicated in April

Two years after fire destroyed the historic church building on Walnut Street, the Manchester Church of the Brethren is ready to dedicate a new building at a new site in North Manchester, Ind. The congregation had been at the Walnut Street location since 1880.

The 45,000-square-feet structure is built on one level on a 25-acre site in the northwest part of town. The sanctuary will seat over 500. A large family life center and narthex will provide space for fellowship, special meals, and recreation. Facilities for a nursery school and children's Christian education program are located in a west wing. The adult program along with a museum, library, board room, chapel, and office complex are in the east wing.

At 7 p.m. April 28 there will be a music fest, featuring congregational singing and worship, special music, and a chance to see and hear the new organ and piano. On Saturday, April 29, there will be an open house when visitors can receive guided tours of the building.

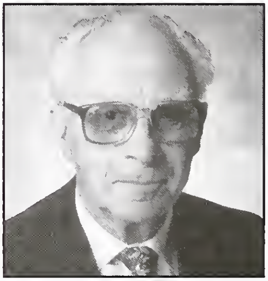
On April 30, morning worship will convene at 9:30 a.m. A carry-in dinner will follow at 11:30. The dedication service will begin at 2 p.m. with an instrumental concert at 1:30 featuring the organ and piano. All are invited.

The main speaker at the dedication service will be Charles Boyer, former Annual Conference moderator and currently pastor of the La Verne (Calif.) Church of the Brethren.
—William R. Eberly

Remembered

Harold B. ("H.B.") Brumbaugh, of Huntingdon, Pa., fondly known by many as "Mr. Juniata," died Jan. 17 after an extended illness. He was 88.

Harold B. Brumbaugh



Brumbaugh dedicated his entire life to Juniata College, the Huntingdon institution where he studied and worked—and even lived until 1993.

A 1933 alumnus, he began his career there in 1936 as assistant to President Charles C. Ellis. Over the years his titles included alumni secretary, vice president for development, and vice president for college advancement emeritus.

Violet Anet Satvedi

Violet Anet Satvedi, 59, died Oct. 1 in Hudson, Ill. She and her husband, Anet, served as Church of the Brethren staff at Waha Schools and other assignments in Nigeria between 1972 and 1986. She was a graduate of Bethany Theological Seminary.

Harold Mohler of Warrensburg, Mo., died on Dec. 7, and **F. Willard "Bill" Powers** of Mount Morris, Ill., died two days later at the age of 90, on Dec. 9.

Mohler twice served as a member of the Church of the Brethren General Board and was a longtime chair of the board of trustees for McPherson (Kan.) College. His memorial service was held Dec. 11 at the New Beginnings Church of the Brethren, Warrensburg, Mo.

"Under Construction" *crew members with finished playhouse.*

VBS constructs a Habitat for Humanity theme

Last year the **Dayton (Va.)** Church of the Brethren joined two other congregations for "Under Construction: a Habitat for Humanity Vacation Bible School." Over three weeks 62 children participated. They created crafts that encouraged them to share with others, developed ways to care for a friend who is hurting, and learned about worship through Bible stories and games. A large playhouse was constructed on the VBS site and then auctioned at the closing program. It brought $1,500 to benefit Habitat for Humanity.

Powers also served on the General Board, was the first moderator of the Illinois-Wisconsin District, and was chairperson for the denomination's 250th anniversary celebration. He also served on the board of trustees for Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind., and was active in membership and leadership with numerous community organizations and with Camp Emmaus.

Teacher receives President's Award

Cindy Asiala, pianist and treasurer of the Marilla (Mich.) Church of the Brethren, was one of 21 recipients of the 1999 President's Service Awards.

The recipients traveled to Washington, D.C., to receive the honor from national service executives and the Points of Light Foundation. Several members also talked with President Bill Clinton in the Oval Office.

Asiala was chosen for the honor for her work, assisted by co-teacher Deb Crandall, in initiating the Service Learning Class at Brethren High School in the town of Brethren, Mich.

Performing in Steve Engle's "Rumors of Angels," *from left, are Kim Murray Simmons as Mary, Marty Keeney as the rabbi, and Brent Hurley as Joseph.*

Musical 'Rumors of Angels,' makes its debut performance

In December Steve Engle and musicians from Stone Church of the Brethren and Juniata College, both in Huntingdon, Pa., offered a debut of his musical composition "Rumors of Angels." This two-hour musical, based on the Bible story of Mary and Joseph was performed before a standing-room-only crowd at Juniata's Oller Hall.

Engle is a well-known Church of the Brethren composer and ventriloquist. Previous major works include "Saint Judas Passion," and "A Christmas Patchwork." His hymn "I See A New World Coming" is included in *Hymnal: A Worship Book.*

Steve calls "Rumors of Angels" "sort of a Christmas 'Fiddler on the Roof.'" The original script and musical score follows Mary and Joseph from when they fell in love, to their betrothal, the Immaculate Conception, their wedding, the birth of Jesus. This production, made up of church, college, and community personnel, featured 11 lead characters, a 40-voice choir, and a 28-piece orchestra. —Donna Rhodes

Orapan Termkunanon *as Mary and Adam Lemmer as Joseph.*

Ohio church lets town know 'who we are' at Christmas

In the New Carlisle, Ohio, Christmas parade, the role of Mary was played by a Buddhist. Orapan Termkunanon cradled a plastic baby Jesus on the New Carlisle Church of the Brethren float. The 17-year-old exchange student from Thailand said she had recently heard the story of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus for the first time, told by her American host, Andrew Wright, the Brethren pastor.

"We wanted to remind the community of the Christ in Christmas," Wright said of the church's float. "We wanted to let the community know who we are and why we celebrate."

Bible readers commit to go cover-to-cover

In December the deacons of the Greenville (Ohio) Church of the Brethren decided to ask their members to read the entire Bible in one year as a project for the year 2000.

After three Sundays of promotion, 88 people had signed a card commiting them to read three or four chapters of the Bible each day until they were finished.

A reading guide is taped to the Bible so chapters may be crossed off as they are read. Those on the reading team encourage each other. The church newsletter, the bulletin, and the pastor help explain the books as readers progress.

For those who are successful, a "cover-to-cover" Bible party will be held in January 2001.—Ken Groff

---

"In Touch" features news of congregations, districts, and individuals. Send story ideas and photos to "In Touch," Messenger, *1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.*

News

IGREJA DE CRISTO

Merv Keeney

Merv Keeney

Top: *The church building in Rio Verde, Brazil.* **Right:** *Inside the church, Marcos Inhauser, left, enthusiastically shares his hopes for the church in Brazil, as James Miller, Shenandoah district executive, listens.*

November trip may lead to future work in Brazil

A November visit to Brazil may lead to new activity by the Church of the Brethren in that nation.

Mervin Keeney, director of Global Mission Partnerships; Allen Hansell, director of Ministry; and James Miller, Shenandoah District executive, traveled to visit the congregation in Rio Verde, Goias, Nov. 19-21 and were joined there by Bethany Theological Seminary graduate Marcos Inhauser.

The young congregation had been through a period of conflict and division some years ago after being recognized by Annual Conference as a Church of the Brethren congregation in 1992.

"We needed to go and listen," Keeney said of the purpose for the trip. "After a period of limited contact, we wanted to hear and discern where God is leading this group now." Following the positive visit, work began on a proposal regarding the Brazilian church to present to the General Board at its March meetings.

A rough landing can't stop Bible launching in Sudan

Even a change of site and a very rough, near-tragic airplane landing in Sudan couldn't take away from the joy of dedicating the first complete Bible in the Nuer language—a project more than nine years in the works.

After the location of the new translation's launch shifted from Akobo to Mading, in southern Sudan, Church of the Brethren representatives Lester and Esther Boleyn of Citronelle, Ala., and David Sollenberger of Annville, Pa., took a flight from northern Kenya to Mading. As the plane approached the dirt landing strip, however, it was whipped by strong crosswinds and rolled sharply back and forth. The right landing gear hit hard and collapsed, and the plane then skidded sideways into a fence. It rolled the plane, snapping off the left wing and leaving the plane lying on its roof.

The Boleyns reported that miraculously, however, none of the 24 people on the plane had more than a scratch, and they were able to exit via a rear loading door or the cockpit. Sollenberger was able to videotape the rescue operation.

"God is great, we are safe, and the Nuer now have the Bible in their own language," the Boleyns wrote.

Hymnnal supplement group sings its work

The committee preparing supplements to *Hymnal: A Worship Book* has progressed to the next level of the project — digesting the input of 33 advisory group members who each sang through 239 potential hymns.

The advisory group is a diverse set of people who committed to reviewing the first cut of hymns and evaluating their appropriateness for inclusion in a set of booklets for congregational worship within the Church of the Brethren. That input, sent by mail, was tabulated for the Hymnal Pocket Series Committee to use as a guide in the next level of selection, done during a meeting Dec. 6-10 in Elgin, Ill.

The committee decided the still-to-be-named series will consist of nine booklets produced over a three-year period. The categories will be based on those in the hymnal, and the first three will be 1) Advent/Christmas/Epiphany; 2) Lent/Easter/Pentecost; and 3) Praising/Adoring.

David Radcliff

The hymnal supplement *committee at work. Clockwise from upper left: Wendy McFadden, Jonathan Shively, Lani Wright, and Nancy Faus.*

Each booklet will include hymns representing a variety of musical styles. Among those in the mix are traditional hymns, praise choruses, new hymns written since the hymnal was published, and hymns coming from other cultures.

Of the list evaluated by members of the advisory group, the top 10 were: "While by the sheep," "Jesu, Jesu" (with revised words), "We three kings," "Jubilate, everybody," "Laudate Dominum," "Siyahamba," "Halle, halle, hallelujah," "Touch the earth lightly," "Glory, glory, hallelujah," and "Go, tell it on the mountain."

Ultimate inclusion in the series depends on copyright permissions, so no titles are yet considered final.

The committee will meet again in March. Members are Nancy Faus, chair; Wendy McFadden, publisher; Jonathan Shively; and Lani Wright. The first booklet in the series is planned for completion by fall 2000.

Loving heart is logo for Annual Conference

The Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee has chosen a design by Debra Noffsinger of the Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren as the logo for the 2000 Conference to be held in Kansas City in July. The logo will appear on the banner in the convention center and on other Conference materials.

Noffsinger said that thoughts presented by moderator Emily Mumma, including a scripture from Colossians, helped to inspire the motif.

"I designed the logo with the thought of us all being woven together with each other and with God into one fabric," Noffsinger wrote in an explanation of the design. "Our love holds us tight."

BVS eliminates barrier by waiving application fee

People seeking to work through Brethren Volunteer Service no longer need to pay an application fee as of Jan. 1.

The BVS team planning retreat held in December arrived at a decision to no longer require the $15 fee beginning in the new year, matching the practice of most other volunteer agencies.

"BVS wants to remove barriers to the application process," BVS director Dan McFadden said, "and this is one area where we can make an immediate change without a high cost to BVS."

Students flock to study with Brethren Colleges Abroad

Brethren Colleges Abroad has more individual students pre-registered than ever before this year, with nearly 400 signed up for international study.

The total semester-equivalents is equal to the previous year, however, as only one in eight students are staying for a full academic year. Of those enrolled, the largest number registered for Barcelona, Spain, with 114 students. Second is Athens, Greece, with 62. The remaining students are scattered over nine other sites in eight countries.

Large group attends youth spirituality workshop

The theme of youth spirituality struck a chord among Brethren as a crowd of nearly 200 people attended the 1999 Youth Ministry Workshop held at the Hagerstown (Md.) Church of the Brethren Nov. 20.

Chris Douglas, coordinator of the General Board's Youth/Young Adult Office, which sponsored the workshop, said it was the highest registration ever for the annual fall event since it began in the early 1990s.

Mark Yaconelli, who directs the Youth Spirituality Project at San Francisco Theological Seminary, provided leadership for the event.

"God needs to be at the center," Yaconelli said, describing various youth ministry models. "The Christian faith doesn't make sense unless there is a God. We need to have youth 'meet God.' Our desire for God is our greatest gift to our children."

A video of highlights from the workshop, filmed by David Sollenberger of the Annville (Pa.) congregation, is available for districts or congregations to borrow from the Youth/Young Adult Ministry Office. Call 800-323-8039.

Disaster Fund grants help Balkans, Puerto Rico, Eritrea

In recent months the General Board has approved the following Emergency Disaster Fund allocations, culminating more than three dozen grants going out in 1999 and beginning 2000:

- $37,500 to support the ongoing post-war work of Brethren Volunteer Service in the Balkans.
- $15,000 to support a hurricane recovery and mitigation project on the Puerto Rican island of Culebra. The project came as a joint effort between the General Board's Emergency Response/Service Ministries and McPherson (Kan.) College, with additional volunteers from Chiques Church of the Brethren, Manheim, Pa., plus two experienced project directors.
- $15,000 toward additional support for the Family Farm Drought Response, an ecumenical effort of which the General Board's Emergency Response/Service Ministries is a part.
- $25,000 to support the immediate disaster recovery efforts of Church World Service in the aftermath of catastrophic floods and mudslides that killed thousands and devastated areas along Venezuela's Caribbean coast.
- $13,500 to fund an emergency shipment of medical supplies in cooperation with Mercy Corps to war-torn Eritrea, on the northeast coast of Africa.
- $10,000 to support continuing relief and reconstruction efforts related to the effects of Hurricane Floyd in North Carolina. Monies for the grant had been given via designated gifts from congregations and individuals in Virlina District, where most of the damage from the storm occurred.
- In addition to these disaster grants, the board allocated $2,500 from the Global Food Crisis Fund in December to meet a request for the Eco-Justice Working Group of the National Council of Churches. The funds will support an Earth Day resource mailing about the effects of energy consumption, global warming, and climate changes on food security.

Juniata publishes book on peace hero Elizabeth Baker

A new book, *Peace is Everybody's Business—Half a Century of Peace Education with Elizabeth Evans Baker,* by Marta Daniels, of Chester, Conn., was published by Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pa., in November.

It explores the role Baker played in peace education and a life devoted to finding peace. The book was commissioned for publication in 1999 to mark the 30th anniversary of the date Elizabeth Evans Baker wrote her first letter to then-Juniata President John Stauffer, challenging the college to create a peace studies program as part of its curriculum, and the 25th anniversary of the date Juniata's full-fledged Peace and Conflict Studies program began.

Peace is Everybody's Business is available at the Juniata College Bookstore for $7.95 plus shipping. For information call 814-641-3380.

Young adults to focus on 'Finding Common Ground'

This year's Young Adult Conference, with the theme "Finding Common Ground," will be held over the Memorial Day weekend, May 27-29, at Camp Harmony, Hooversville, Pa.

All who consider themselves young adults are invited to attend and share their visions and challenges, as well as listen to the diversity within the Church of the Brethren. The conference will be led by Matt Guynn and a YAC leadership team. Registration fee is $80; for a registration brochure call 800-323-8039, ext. 286, or go to the Church of the Brethren Web site (www.brethren.org) and print one.

Personnel

Patty and John Crumley of Polo, Ill., accepted a call to serve in Nigeria through the Church of the Brethren General Board's office of Global Mission Partnerships. Their employment began Dec. 13 and they left for Nigeria in January. Patty will be teaching music at Hillcrest School in Jos, and John's assignment is yet to be defined.

Providing Superior Care for Your Peace of Mind

EVERYTHING YOU WANT
IN A SERENE YET CONVENIENT COUNTRY SETTING.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING IN CROSS KEYS VILLAGE
- HARMONY RIDGE APARTMENTS OR COTTAGES

DINING - PLANNED ACTIVITIES - TRANSPORTATION
ON-CAMPUS BANKING & MEDICAL FACILITIES

ASSISTED LIVING CENTER
- SHELTERED NEIGHBORHOOD
- PRIVATE ROOMS WITH BATH
- HEALTH CARE CENTER
- HOUSEKEEPING

EVERYTHING YOU NEED
- SUPPORT SERVICES
- HOME HEALTH SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE (ALZHEIMER'S) UNIT
- CROSS KEYS SUBACUTE CENTER
- ADULT DAY SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE UNIT
- NURSING CARE
- RESPITE CARE

MEDICARE/MEDICAID APPROVED

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Christian care since 1908

2990 CARLISLE PIKE - P.O. BOX 128
NEW OXFORD, PA 17350-0128
1-888-624-8242
WWW.BRETHRENHOME.ORG

The Brethren Home Community

Scott McAlpine

Maintaining a database *of more than 3,600 people on death row and matching them with volunteer correspondents is the work of Rachel Gross, director of the Death Row Support Project, a ministry of the General Board's Office of Brethren Witness.*

Writing to death row

The Death Row Support Project has been ministering to prisoners for more than 20 years

BY GREG LASZAKOVITS

"Thank you for sending my name to the Thompson family. I have been on death row. . . and at first I thought everyone had forgotten about me."

The cornfields of Indiana are a long way from the lonely halls of death row. Yet this Midwestern rural landscape is much closer than you might imagine to the steel and gray one finds in the iron bars and echoing halls of prison. This soybeans and Brethren territory, just outside the small town of Liberty Mills, houses one of the best support systems for death row prisoners, Death Row Support Project (DRSP).

Director Rachel Gross stands in her farmhouse kitchen preparing lunch, comfortably answering questions and throwing out statistics:

As of Sept. 1, 1999, there were 3,625 people on death row in the United States. The mission of Gross and the DRSP is to see that each and every one of those persons receives a letter, and gains an ongoing relationship, while life still exists.

DRSP, a Church of the Brethren General Board ministry sponsored by the Brethren Witness office, matches the people on death row with "pen pals." Yet one hesitates to use such a flippant word for fear it cannot match the depth and intensity these writing relationships often reach.

In 1976 the US Supreme Court reinstated the use of capital punishment. At that time Rachel's husband, Bob, was working on criminal justice issues with the Church of the Brethren Washington Office. Knowing her compassion, Bob suggested to Rachel the possibility of a correspondence ministry. She readily accepted the challenge. The Washington Office was the first to support the project and in the fall of 1978, the DRSP started with about 20 correspondents.

"When I started in 1977 I thought, 'No problem, two years of this and the death penalty will be gone again when people come back to their senses after they see how wrong it is.' But here we are, 20 years later. I thought it would be a short-term thing," recalls Gross with a mix of disappointment and amazement.

Obviously, it has been anything but "short-term." Twenty-one years and more than 600 executions later, the death penalty remains tightly woven into the American fiber. In fact, most polls show Americans strongly in favor of government-sponsored executions—upwards of 6,500 have been sentenced to death since 1977 (though 2,000 of those sentences have been commuted or reduced).

Even while public opinion continues to support capital punishment, and 38 of the 50 states proscribe death, the hope of abolition stays alive for many. In the meantime, DRSP plans to keep hard at work matching those imprisoned with those who are on the "outside."

Gross says it's hard to tell how many people are corresponding at the moment. But she does know that DRSP has referred more than 65 percent of the 3,625 on death row around the nation to correspondents.

DRSP continues the tradition set by other notable Brethren ministries by opening its doors to ecumenical and secular participation. This is due partly to an open attitude, but mostly out of necessity. The first push in 1978, including a MESSENGER advertisement, sought matches for the 400 people newly assigned to death row. A number of writers responded, but sadly short of 400. The need for more writers led to ads in *Sojourners* and other publications. Thankfully, a larger group responded to the plea.

Letter-writers have come from all walks of life, denominations, and parts of the world. Many write out of religious conviction, and some from deep wells of compassion. Many of the writers are Catholic sisters, American Baptists, and Seventh Day Adventists. Around 100 are Brethren. Since the US is the only Western country to use capital punishment, numerous writers hail from abroad, including many from Europe.

For nearly 20 years *the Franklin family of Modesto, Calif., has corresponded with death row inmate Ronnie Bell through the Death Row Support Project. Bell, a prisoner at San Quentin penitentiary, is seated, flanked by Simeon Franklin, left, and Cyrus. Back row: Joshua, Pam, Phil and Melissa. The photo was taken several years ago.*

Why would you want to write to a convicted murderer? Gross offers many reasons, but states that the most important for her is her belief that writing to a person on death row is a form of visiting, in line with Jesus' teaching (Matt. 25:31-46). She explains, "Jesus called us to be with those in prison; he didn't qualify it with why they were there."

One may suspect Jesus calls us to visit with those in prison for the very reason reflected in this article's opening quote— an utter feeling of abandonment and loneliness. Feeling forgotten may be one of the worst emotions one can experience. It is akin to worthlessness. Jesus saw the worth in all children of God he encountered; he was unconcerned with what they did for a living, where they hung their hats, or their past sins. He exemplified a way of living in which everyone deserved human contact and love, and an opportunity for forgiveness.

Regardless of guilt or innocence, DRSP believes that no person is beyond the love, compassion, and listening presence that only a fellow human being can provide.

This sentiment is felt by one man on Texas' death row who expresses his gratefulness for correspondence: "I have been corresponding . . . on a regular basis and have had few things in my life which have given me more pleasure. It is a helping hand to us who society has condemned, while knowing we have violated those standards they hold sacred. To me that is truly love for your fellow man."

"This really changes people's lives," notes Gross, who launches into the story of one family's impact on their new friend's life. The family provided testimony in a re-sentencing hearing that was pivotal in reducing the convicted person's sentence.

Surprising to many, writing and visiting often becomes a family project. Younger children draw pictures, which are greatly appreciated by those who have little or no contact with children. In turn, children have the opportunity in a safe space to learn about the justice system and, more significantly, about the individuals who are in it.

A mother writes, "We have learned a lot about prison life—and its toll on a person. . . . We have a new awareness, as a family, of the inhumanity of the death penalty."

Correspondent relationships not only influence the prisoner's life, but they also change the other person psychologically and spiritually as well. Writing to a person on death row gives one the opportunity to see situations as they have never seen them before, from the childhood past of a confessed murderer, to the pleas of a person who may be an innocent victim caught in the wrong place at the wrong time (23 persons have been executed, only to be found innocent upon further review).

One man describes his discovery of compassion: "Besides learning about myself, I feel like I have learned to appreciate another unique individual. Until I am open to sharing and being sensitive to his concerns, struggles, joys, defeats, etc., I cannot be supportive or healing in any way."

In a land wracked by stereotypes and social stratification, DRSP opens the door to appreciate people for who they are and not who we as a society project them to be. One woman wrote, "I was able to see Richard as a person, and a neat person at that, instead of just a prisoner. The prejudices I had have disappeared. Actually I think I probably got more out of it than he did."

DRSP correspondence also gives the imprisoned the opportunity to give gifts of the human spirit that might otherwise not find an outlet. Many in Brethren circles are familiar with the late Dale Aukerman, longtime peace activist, writer, and spiritual giant, who last year wrote for Messenger about his honest, yet graceful, battle with cancer. Aukerman had long been a correspondent through DRSP with men on death row around the nation and had supported men through the agony of death row all the way to the Alabama electric chair.

When Aukerman was diagnosed with lung cancer, his death sentence of sorts, a tremendous outpouring of love and support came from those he had long supported on death row. Those who knew what it was like to know their days were numbered felt an instant camaraderie. Ten men on death row wrote letters and notes of support to Dale and his family during this trying time, sharing with him their wisdom of what it means to lean on God while life hangs in the balance.

Wrote one imprisoned man, "Look upon the healing powers of Jesus, and also for the comfort of knowing friends and family are beside you. My prayers are joined." In a turnabout of grace, the receiver became a reminder of God's boundless love.

Gross maintains a database that tracks sentence changes, executions, names, department of corrections numbers, addresses, etc. Keeping this database up-to-date seems to be half the battle. Quarterly, DRSP receives listings from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund that shows many of the changes. However, this list does not tell it all. Gross must use other sources to maintain accuracy. In fact, DRSP has one of the most complete lists in the country of prisoners on death row.

Gross guards the list closely. "A few people have called thinking we were in support of the death penalty and wanted to know how they could help," she laughs. Quickly growing earnest she retorts, "I'm very protective of the guys. I don't want anyone getting hate mail. Unfortunately, it's been known to happen."

Pen pals: *Beth Portela of Huntington, Ind., corresponds with Omar, a prisoner on death row in Florida.*

Since overhead is small, due to the fact that this ministry is run out of the Gross home, not many financial resources are needed for DRSP. However, DRSP has not been immune to recent General Board cutbacks—its budget was reduced by over 50 percent. Larger projects await completion, and staying abreast of issues by attending conferences and workshops around the country also requires funding. A unified budget structure does not allow for direct cash donations, but Gross happily notes that DRSP is always ready to accept stamps that can be sent to correspondents who may not be able to afford them. Postage also helps with day-to-day office operations and bulk mailings.

While money is tight, time seems to be the biggest shortage for Gross. She is not only the director of DRSP, but also a full-time mother and spouse, and practices what she names a personal "ministry of availability," which calls her to many tasks in her home church and the larger community. She hopes soon to add a peace studies intern from nearby Manchester College to aid with database upkeep and administration. Another hope is to enlist coordinators who would monitor the status of death row—from new sentences to execution updates—in their respective states.

Whenever it's suggested that DRSP go ecumenical to ease financial and time pressures, Gross balks. "It's been a Brethren ministry from the start. Staying part of this community [Church of the Brethren] is important to me. I am Brethren and this program has always been Brethren."

The Church of the Brethren stands firmly opposed to capital punishment and supports efforts to aid the accused, as well as the victims of crime. (See the 1987 Annual Conference statement.)

DRSP sees value in letter-writing not only for the relationship that is created, but also because it is one of the best transformative and inspirational tools for getting people involved in the abolition movement in more profound ways.

Pat Bane, a Catholic woman from Syracuse, N.Y., began corresponding with a man on death row in Arkansas. Written correspondence soon became personal visits and, when it came time for the man to be executed, Pat was able to serve as his spiritual advisor. It was a sad ending, but would have been sadder had he died alone. Pat Bane's story does not end with the death of her friend, but the birth of a ministry.

Bane was not a typical DRSP correspondent—her uncle had been murdered years before. Through the relationship she built on death row, she was led to join Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation (MVFR), a national organization of family members of victims, of both homicides and state killings, who oppose the death penalty. In fact, Bane went on to serve the growing MVFR as its first paid staff person.

Bane no longer serves MVFR, but the organization continues to thrive as a support program that addresses the needs of victims of violence, enabling them to rebuild their lives. MVFR also advocates policies to reduce the rate of homicide, and promotes crime prevention and alternatives to violence.

"Pat is who I refer to as DRSP's poster child," states Gross. "Her story is exactly what we envisioned when we started 21 years ago. Not just writing and becoming involved in someone's life in a very personal sense, but becoming part of the movement in new and exciting ways."

Working with victims' families also remains one of Gross's dreams. "Someday I would like to have a dual ministry—serving both victims' families and those on death row." She recognizes the healing and conciliation that can often blossom in the darkest of nights, when the opportunity is provided.

DRSP is not only transforming the lives of those who find themselves on death row and those who exchange letters with them, it is also leaving its mark on the movement to abolish the death penalty. Sometimes even worthy movements lose sight of why they are moving. However, in the movement to abolish the death penalty, DRSP has represented a Spirit-led voice of compassionate support and action. In response to this compassionate action, the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty recently presented DRSP with a "Special Recognition Award" for 20 years of dedicated service. This ministry is finding and gaining respect in the abolition movement.

DRSP has taken on the monumental task of assigning each person on death row a correspondent. To date two-thirds of them have been assigned a pen pal. "More can certainly be done," Gross says. More correspondents are needed to fill in for the third of death-row inmates who may have no constant support outside of prison.

Meanwhile, Rachel Gross waits patiently for more volunteers to correspond, as does someone who has been involved in the struggle for over 20 years.

A religious ethics writer once reflected on the nature of justice, punishment, and humanity: "Anger is righteousness without humility." In a nation gripped by anger, and the belief that an eye for an eye brings justice, DRSP offers a place of mercy for those who find themselves amid the lonely solitude and terror of waiting—a place where they are not forgotten.

Greg Laszakovits, currently living in Richmond, Ind., is a member of the Phoenix (Ariz.) First Church of the Brethren. He recently finished a one-year assignment with the Office of Brethren Witness focusing on anti-racism education and abolishing the death penalty.

How you can get involved

To obtain the name and address of a person on death row with whom you may correspond, write to Death Row Support Project, Department M, P.O. Box 600, Liberty Mills, IN 46946.

Insert your church name here

www. Insert your church name here **.org**

Trying to get you or your congregation "online"?

Turn to someone you can trust.

eMountain, the electronic ministry of the Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust, can assist you with your Internet and technology needs.

- **Web hosting.** Reasonable rates to get you or your congregation on the Web: $4.95/month basic plan; $12.95/month enhanced plan.
- **Internet access.** ClearViewNet delivers Internet access that adheres to and witnesses Brethren values.
- **Other Services.** Web site design, e-mail accounts, domain name registration, e-commerce Web sites, and video conferencing.

eMountain™ COMMUNICATIONS

A ministry of Brethren Benefit Trust

1505 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1619
800-746-1505 847-742-0135 fax
www.eMountain.com

Say yes to JUBILEE 2000

The campaign to cancel international debt

BY HEATHER NOLEN

JUBILEE 2000
USA
BREAK THE CHAINS OF D

More than 400 people *were part of a procession to the US Department of Treasury on June 18, 1999—the same day President Clinton was meeting with the other industrialized countries in Cologne, Germany.*

Would you like to alleviate poverty? Would you like your sisters and brothers around the world to have access to basic health care and education? Would you like to control pollution and reverse environmental degradation? Would you like to reduce outbreaks of violent conflict?

If you answered yes to these questions, then you are ready for Jubilee. In fact, we're already living in the Jubilee year. As Leviticus 25 tells us, every 50th year was to be a year of Jubilee—a year when slaves were set free and land was returned to its original owner.

So what is the connection between "yes" to the first four questions and the year of Jubilee? Just as the Israelites were reminded that all we are and have belongs to God, we must also respond to our modern-day call to get economic relations right.

To that end, Jubilee 2000 is a global movement that is responding to the international debt crisis and the many lives that could be saved each year if the debts of the most impoverished countries were cancelled outright.

Jubilee 2000 is a grassroots campaign in over 60 countries around the world. The Jubilee 2000/USA Campaign was formally endorsed by the Church of the Brethren General Board in March 1999 by approval of a resolution brought by the Washington Office. Each country's campaign has its own headquarters and platform for action, but they are all focused on the international debt crisis in some way. The Jubilee 2000/USA campaign was launched in 1997, and the Church of the Brethren Washington Office is one of 36 faith-based, environmental, and social justice organizations on its steering committee. Other members include the American Friends Service Committee, Church World Service/National Council of Churches, Mennonite Central Committee, and Bread for the World.

The Jubilee 2000 Campaign seeks "cancellation of the crushing international debt for countries that are burdened with high levels of human need and environmental distress." The campaign works for debt cancellation that benefits ordinary people. The people themselves should have a role in determining how the savings from debt cancellation is used, as well as the future conditions of any negotiated loans to their governments.

Also, Jubilee 2000 seeks debt cancellation that is not conditioned on policy reforms that perpetuate or deepen poverty or environmental degradation, often known as "structural adjustment programs," or SAPs. Jubilee 2000 urges that lenders and borrowers alike acknowledge responsibility for the debt crisis.

Where resources were diverted by corruption, Jubilee 2000 advocates for their recovery. To prevent future debt crises, Jubilee seeks the creation of mechanisms to monitor international monetary flows through a process that is open and accessible to the public.

The campaign's primary mission is to urge creditors (commercial banks, governments, and multilateral institutions) in the "North," or the industrialized and developed countries, to cancel the crushing debts of the most impoverished countries in the "South," or those countries that are considered to be developing.

These countries targeted for debt cancellation spend financial resources on debt payments rather than on clean water, basic health care, and education for their citizens. On average, the countries of sub-Saharan Africa spend more on debt service than on health and education combined. In Tanzania, where 40 percent of the population dies before the age of 35, the government spends nine times more on debt payments than on health care and primary education combined.

Creditors, to whom the debt is owed—like the US and other industrialized countries, plus international financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank—are called to acknowledge their complicity in making loans to corrupt governments. Now, debt payments are being exacted on people who were in no way participants in accepting the terms of the original loans. If future lending is monitored and ultimately approved with active citizen participation, concern about corruption will diminish.

But what about ensuring that debt savings go for poverty reduction that benefits ordinary people? This is a primary concern in cancelling the debt. Uganda's use of a Poverty Action Fund has been successful and can serve as a model for using debt savings for poverty reduction.

BREA HE CHAINS DEBT

Demonstrators *formed a human chain at the US Department of Treasury last June.*

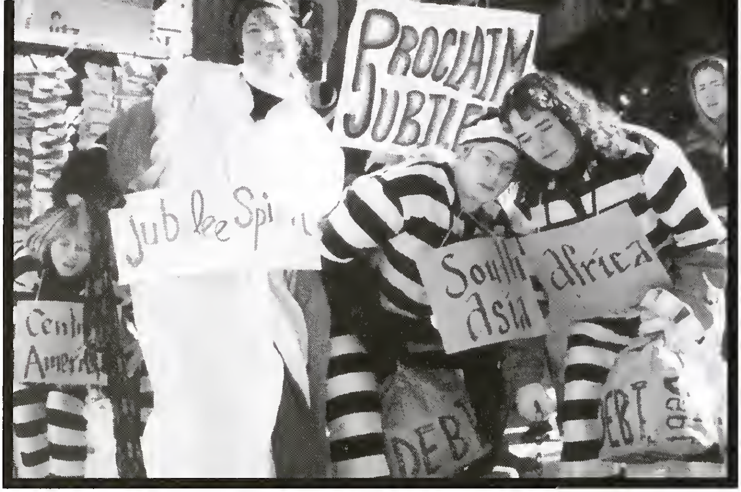
$2 trillion too much

Presently, developing countries owe the "North" and the international financial institutions over $2 trillion. This debt crisis was caused by a number of factors, but some key ones were irresponsible lending, corrupt borrowers, the jockeying for allies through financial lending during the Cold War, and drastic fluctuations in the market value of basic commodities, like cocoa and coffee, on which the "South" depends for revenue.

Highly Indebted Poor Countries

In 1996, the World Bank and the IMF categorized 41 countries as "Highly Indebted Poor Countries," or HIPC countries. Collectively HIPC countries owe approximately $220 billion in foreign debts. The HIPC initiative was a watershed because, for the first time, it offered a comprehensive framework for addressing multilateral debt (owed to international financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank), bilateral debt (government to government), and commercial debt (owed to banks).

These countries were identified as carrying "unsustainable debt burdens," debts beyond a country's ability to pay. Because most international debt is owed by many "middle-income" countries whose debt burdens are not considered "unsustainable," they are not classified under HIPC. Most advocates for debt cancellation believe that



Christian Peacemaker Team *member Anita Fast, dressed as Jubilee Spirit, proclaims release to those suffering under the crushing international debt during the procession to the International Monetary Fund. CPT carried out a nonviolent vigil at the IMF December 27–January 1.*

the debts of "middle-income" countries should also be addressed. For example, Ecuador, considered a "middle- income" country, recently had to default on its debt payments to the United States. As Ecuador's President Mahuad announced that Ecuador would be changing its currency, the sucre, for the dollar, oil workers and a large portion of the indigenous population turned out to protest. The president was eventually overthrown by a military coup. Ecuador had been implementing policies of economic reform required by the IMF to receive a large negotiated loan—money that would be used to pay off other debts—like those to the United States.

HIPC countries owe approximately $6 billion to the US directly (bilateral debt). In Cologne, Germany, last June, President Clinton and leaders of the other wealthiest industrialized nations agreed to cancel 90 percent of the debt owed by HIPC countries.

Clinton later agreed to cancel 100 percent of HIPC-country debt. Despite Clinton's announcement, the US Congress still has to appropriate the money in order for the US to fulfill its promise to cancel this debt. In November 1999, Congress appropriated $110 million to write off more than $1 billion in debt owed to the US. The US gave a partial approval to allow the IMF to use $2.3 billion of its own resources to write off poor-country debt.

What good will it do?

Can cancelling the debt really eradicate poverty, guarantee that poor people gain access to health care and education, safeguard the environment, and prevent violent conflict? It is at least a way to begin addressing many of these problems. These governments have already paid several times over the amount of the original loans, yet mounting interest payments prevent them from freeing resources to boost social expenditures and improve the quality of life for their citizens.

Uganda's Poverty Action Fund shows how freed resources from debt cancellation can benefit ordinary people. Although Uganda received little relief under HIPC, it successfully channeled all debt savings—about $40 million—into its own Poverty Action Fund. According to the Poverty Eradication Action Plan designed by Ugandans themselves, money is spent for rural feeder roads, agricultural extension, water supply, health care, and primary education. Now there are twice as many students in Uganda's primary schools as there were in 1997. The public is given full access to information about the fund's management, and certain civil society organizations like the Ugandan Debt Network even assist in the management of the fund.

How much will it cost?

How much is debt cancellation expected to cost the US taxpayer? "It's the cost of an ice cream cone. It's the price of a gallon of gas. It's the cost of a Sunday paper," wrote US Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-Ala.), in a letter to House members urging their support for debt cancellation legislation. He was referring to the cost, approximately $1.20 per American each year over three years, required to cancel the debts owed by the Highly Indebted Poor Countries. This is a total of $970 million—less than the cost of one B-2 bomber.

To be sure, the greatest cost of debt is in the lives lost to poor living conditions and inadequate health care. Each African child inherits approximately $379 in debt at birth. Few Africans enjoy access to basic health care. UNAIDS found that a third of rural households in sub-Saharan Africa are affected by AIDs.

The debt crisis has been no kinder to Central America. Each Nicaraguan inherits approximately $2,000 in debt at birth. As Sue Wagner Fields reported in the March 1999 MESSENGER, most Nicaraguan children eat only 50 percent of recommended calories and more than 75 percent of children drop out of school before the sixth grade. In Honduras, on the worst day of the Hurricane Mitch disaster, the Honduran government paid $60 million in debt to its creditors.

The fact that Congress appropriated $110 million for bilateral debt cancellation—more than President Clinton requested — is proof of what a strong movement like Jubilee 2000 can accomplish. This money will be used as countries become eligible to receive debt relief.

It is important that constituents urge their members of Congress to ensure that money appropriated for debt cancellation goes for poverty reduction. Legislators can do so by promoting more success stories like Uganda's Poverty Action Fund. Presently, the IMF and World Bank are in the process of designing poverty reduction strategies, in consultation with target countries, to determine how debt savings will be spent. The test of these strategies will be their ability to empower ordinary people to manage the savings from debt.

It's already the Jubilee year and the debt hasn't been cancelled. There's much to be done. In this short election-year congressional session, legislators will be eager to finalize the budget. At a minimum, Congress must appropriate $800 million more to fulfill promises made in Cologne, Germany.

Proclaim
Jubilee

Steve Erspamer

What you can do

Jubilee 2000 is inviting people of faith and all who care about justice for indebted countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to be a part of the "Jubilee 2000 National Mobilization" in Washington, D.C., on April 9. People have plans to come from as far away as Hawaii and California to participate in this public witness to cancel the debt.

The event begins at noon and will center on the creation of a human chain, following an array of speakers, music, and singing. The day's events will serve as a message to Congress, the IMF, and the World Bank that the crushing international debt must be cancelled.

April 10 will be used as a lobby day for constituents to urge their congresspersons to cancel the debt without demanding adherence to damaging economic reform policies.

There are other ways to be involved in Jubilee if you're unable to come to Jubilee 2000 National Mobilization. Sign the J2000 petition calling for debt cancellation. You might organize a Jubilee church service with your own congregation, focusing on the problems and solutions to the debt issue.

The Jubilee 2000 Campaign has an introductory video on debt that would be useful to social justice committees or youth groups. Some church groups are cancelling debts at home as well. The Sisters of St. Joseph in Brighton, Mass. tore up a $350,000 debt owed to them by a social service agency.

Jubilee 2000 is an opportunity to reexamine and make right the economic relationships in our world. Between Christmas and New Year's the Christian Peacemaker Teams organized a week-long vigil at the International Monetary Fund. CPTers personified the spirit of "jubilee" as a cheerful messenger bringing good news to the oppressed—news of a new life and debts cancelled.

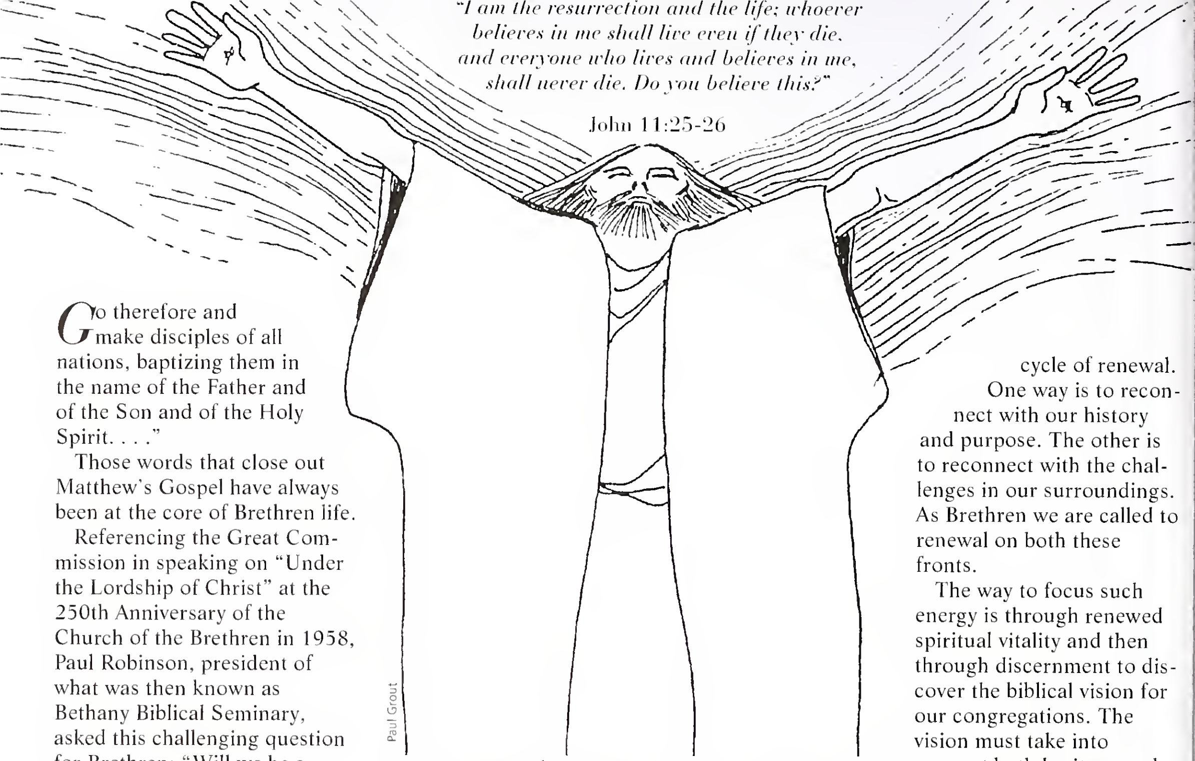
The Church of the Brethren's Global Food Crisis Fund is used to provide for food, clean water, education, and health-related projects in many places around the world. This funding would be even more useful if governments of poor countries were given a fresh start. Giving to the fund would be yet another way to answer the call of Jubilee.

May our living of this Jubilee Year bring more abundant life to all of God's creation. Let's cancel the debt NOW!

Heather Nolen is a research assistant with Church World Service in Washington, D.C., and a member of the Washington City Church of the Brethren.

For more information, contact:

Jubilee 2000/USA
222 East Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
Telephone: 202-783-3566
E-mail: coord@j2000usa.org
Web site: www.j2000usa.org



Paul Grout

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me shall live even if they die, and everyone who lives and believes in me, shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26

Brethren poised for renewal

BY DAVID S. YOUNG

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. . . ."

Those words that close out Matthew's Gospel have always been at the core of Brethren life.

Referencing the Great Commission in speaking on "Under the Lordship of Christ" at the 250th Anniversary of the Church of the Brethren in 1958, Paul Robinson, president of what was then known as Bethany Biblical Seminary, asked this challenging question for Brethren: "Will we be a voice or an echo?"

As we enter the new millennium and approach the 300th anniversary of our denomination in 2008, are we on the threshold of a major renewal for our denomination?

Three factors critical for fulfilling the Great Commission could be in the early stages of development: an interest in spiritual formation, work in servant leadership, and experience in church renewal.

Spiritual formation

Planners of the 7 a.m. Taizé service at the last Annual Conference must have been thrilled to see that room full of worshipers, with youth sitting up front on the floor. It was good to see a MESSENGER edition devoted to the spiritual yearning in the church. And Brethren have a fine opportunity, made possible by the Spiritual Renewal team of the Atlantic Northeast District, in the Regional Renovaré Conference on the balanced spiritual life with Richard Foster March 10 and 11 at Elizabethtown College. At least 40 churches from Atlantic Northeast and Southern Pennsylvania districts are working on this endeavor with support of other Anabaptist groups.

Any major renewal in the church begins with such signs. It is what our pietistic and Anabaptist founders were about. In *Heritage and Promise*, Emmert Bittinger speaks of the evangelistic zeal of the early Brethren, even under adversity. "That the church could grow under such adverse conditions as persecution and active suppression," he writes, "speaks both to the quality of the spiritual character of our founders and to the depth of their commitment."

In *The Life Cycle of a Congregation*, Martin Saarinen speaks about two ways to recapture the energy it takes to begin the upswing of the cycle of renewal. One way is to reconnect with our history and purpose. The other is to reconnect with the challenges in our surroundings. As Brethren we are called to renewal on both these fronts.

The way to focus such energy is through renewed spiritual vitality and then through discernment to discover the biblical vision for our congregations. The vision must take into account both heritage and current challenge. The vision must build on the strengths of our local churches.

Students in my seminary courses on church renewal began to ask me to put the spiritual component of the course first. So we began studying the spiritual disciplines as the first step in the process.

This has become the first step in a seven-fold process that is now recorded in my book *A New Heart and A New Spirit: A Plan for Renewing Your Church*, published by Judson Press of the American Baptist Churches, 1994.

Such energy for renewal happened at the Elizabethtown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren in 1997 as we started formulating a more focused youth ministry. It began with a spiritual thrust. During Lent a team set up a Wednesday evening spiritual emphasis beginning with an informal worship. The pastors shared further thoughts about their Sunday message, and then the group split into faith discussion groups. The attendance of 75 adults and 25 children went beyond our expectations.

That meeting provided the energy to establish a youth ministry council made up of youth and adults who formed four youth ministry groups. The spiritual focus gave the energy and set the tone for the entire endeavor.

As the renewal process moves on, participants move toward a biblical text that becomes key to understanding their identity and calling. In a process of discernment, a church finds a text that speaks to it especially. Plumbing the text, its members can discover dynamics of renewal. Though churches find it helpful to have the tools of consultation, systems thinking, and management, they can find the dynamics of transformation integral to new life right in the biblical text. Often the chosen text has within it three or four indicators that inform and inspire a plan of renewal.

The Waynesboro (Pa.) Church of the Brethren began this process last fall. Rather than following the old diagnostic model of finding out what is wrong and fixing it, church members followed the renewal model and identified their strengths in order to build upon them. Then at a retreat we went on to explore the spiritual movements of renewal lifted up in Psalm 51: upward, inward, and outward. As we looked at a biblical passage that could guide them, they filled two pages of newsprint with texts.

From all their endeavors, they decided that a lengthy emphasis on growing spiritually was the first part of their renewal plan. After more than 30 persons signed up, they formed six Renovaré groups for spiritual growth.

Servant leadership

Defining servant leadership will also give Brethren a sense of being more than an echo. When I attended the 25th anniversary celebration of the Alban Institute, a consulting group for churches, I had a conversation I will never forget. There I met the Rev. Dr. Joseph L. Roberts, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga. He is the successor to Martin Luther King, Sr., in that historic church that has just moved to a new church building built to accommodate an expanding congregation. At the conference the congregation received Alban's first award for congregational innovation and excellence.

Joseph told me of an experience with the Brethren from his childhood. He had gone out from Chicago to a Brethren family around Nappanee, Ind., in what was like a fresh air program. When he experienced an incident of racial discrimination there, the Brethren family quickly came to his defense.

I told him the Brethren beliefs on racial discrimination. In the 1800s we held that "no man should hold another man under his subjugation." He responded warmly, making this connection in his childhood life, and what that meant to him. Then he asked a question that stayed with me, "Has the Brethren story ever been told?" That question from this towering man of faith could well inspire us to tell the story more. A servant church can have a major impact from all its little deeds of washing feet.

Seminar on renewal

David Young will lead a one-day seminar on April 1 at the Brethren Service Center, New Windsor, Md. The seminar is titled "Shepherds by the Living Springs: Spiritual Formation, Servant Leadership, and Church Renewal." Cost of $22 includes lunch. The event is sponsored by On Earth Peace Assembly. For information call 410-635-8705 or e-mail oepa@oepa.org.

My experience in servant leadership began in the early 1970s in the congregation I served outside of Washington, D.C. As we grew, I noticed that the approach we took reflected a servant style. When we met new people, either during home visitation or when they ventured to the church, we would listen to their needs. We would try to discover the talent persons had to share. Servanthood began to spread. A clothing room was established to minister to the needy in the area. Service became identified for us as one of five marks of ministry from the Gospel of John as I completed Bethany's doctor of ministry program in church renewal.

About this time a man from the corporate world, Robert Greenleaf, published a little monograph, "The Servant as Leader." Rather than leaders having service as an add-on, Greenleaf claims that servants become leaders. "The servant-leader is servant first . . . . It begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first."

Rather than using coercion, the servant uses persuasion. Rather than just reacting to situations, the servant is proactive. Servant leadership is now growing rapidly in the world of business, education, and medicine. One of the challenges to the church now is to help define servant leadership from the biblical tradition.

From our Brethren tradition, the servant style moves us into our understanding of spiritual formation. For as our feet are washed, we are reminded of being cleansed, that our service is first to God and to responding to his love. Then in turn, we take a towel and assume the posture of servant to others. Something spiritually happens to us and through us as we kneel, wash, dry toes, embrace, and exchange a holy kiss. The lives of others can be changed.

Since Brethren have been so defined by the power of this drama, I believe we have a voice to share in shaping servant leadership in the church. In participating in this two-fold action, we are changed from servitude to servanthood. We are empowered and transformed.

So in the seminaries and church settings where I teach, I always take the wooden foot tub. As we see servant leadership unfold biblically, we see a transformational style. In faith circles, the hyphen is removed between servant and leadership. That is because God is a third party involved. In one of the suffering servant songs in Isaiah, God tugs open the ear of the servant every morning. This is God's initiative at work.

Then with discernment we attempt to become attuned to God's signals. We live and serve and lead in response to God's initiative and in tune with his will. As we look at strengths, we do so realizing that here is where God has placed talents in this church. As we form a vision, we do best to discern God's way of seeing things whole.

So a second book emerged to define servant leadership biblically and to see the tie between spiritual formation and church renewal. Using a key text from Revelation, "the lamb becomes the shepherd and leads them by living waters" (Rev. 7:17), this book is entitled *Servant Leadership for Church Renewal: Shepherds by the Living Springs* and is published by Herald Press of the Mennonite Church, 1999.

Church renewal

Church renewal follows spiritual formation and servant leadership. In fact, the renewal process begins in the inner spiritual walk and in the discovery of servanthood. I recommend plotting out a three-year plan of renewal in what I call baby-step-by-baby-step fashion. This avoids setting up lofty goals that can defeat us. Then we go on with a plan of implementation using training, spiritual mentoring, and shaping renewal. Here new aspects of ministry emerge. Because of the leadership style, congregations become serving bodies, more spiritually alive.

It is incredible to me to watch class participants who take these seven stages of renewal and go out and apply them in the local setting. Bob Johnson from Waynesboro, Va., pastor of the Mount Vernon church, took the course on church renewal three years ago at the Bethany Seminary satellite in Elizabethtown, Pa. Since that time, Bob reports that the congregation feels that they are now looking into the future as a beacon of light. He feels their spiritual growth emphasis was crucial. Prayer was a significant part of that journey.

At a monthly supper meeting, members of his church look at how to apply their faith to daily life. The board has had three retreats on servant leadership. They have hired a youth director and are now on the threshold of doing the same for children's programming. As a result of the renewal effort, Bob and his church are at a different place than they were three years ago.

Sometimes it seems individuals, churches, and denominations must go through desert times. Those are also part of the renewal process. If after those times their interior lives are more oriented toward God, their vision more clearly focused, and their determination more established, such times can be a prelude to times of new growth and life.

If the Church of the Brethren in particular and mainline denominations in general have walked that path, we are now in an era of longing for the church to be renewed, to offer spiritual resources, to be a voice.

With Africa being projected as the next great center of Christianity and as our nation becomes the mission field, the Great Commission is more vital than ever. Congregations are the mission posts for spreading the Good News. God wants churches to be vibrant, life-giving bodies. We can be forged into spiritual, serving, and renewing communities. Catching the vision, Brethren can be poised for renewal.

David S. Young of Ephrata, Pa., is a servant in renewal, pastor, author, and teacher. He is interim pastor at the Hatfield, Pa., congregation, teaches at four seminaries, and works on congregational renewal through On Earth Peace and in other denominations. He is co-chair of the Spiritual Renewal Team of the Atlantic Northeast District and chair of the Regional Renovaré Conference at Elizabethtown College. His books listed in this article are available through Brethren Press.

BELIEVERS CHURCH BIBLE COMMENTARY
1-2 PETER
JUDE
BELIEVERS CHURCH BIBLE COMMENTARY
JUDGES

Believers Church Bible Commentary Series

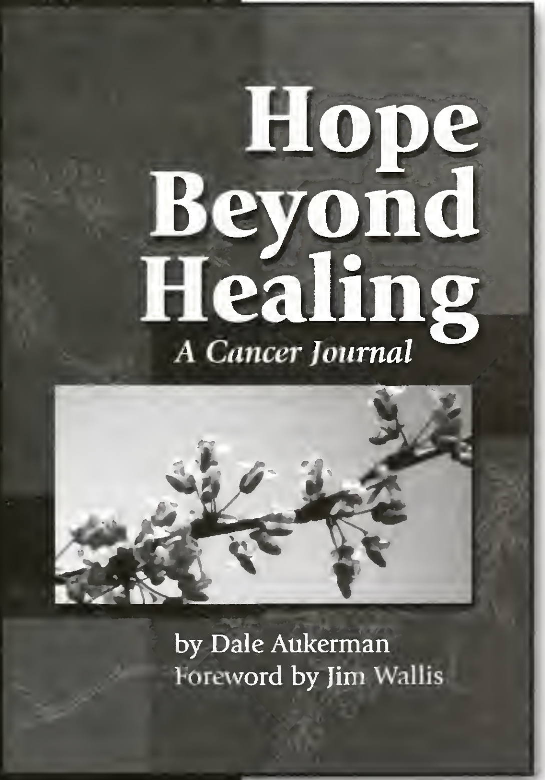
"Solid biblical exposition in accessible language and a reader-friendly format. **Erland Waltner** and **J. Daryl Charles** offer careful, detailed, and widely-researched analysis of 1-2 Peter and Jude."—*Dorothy Jean Weaver, Eastern Mennonite Seminary*
Paper, 336 pages, $21.99;
in Canada $32.79

"Written in a clear and unadorned style, **Terry L. Brensinger** shows the true significance of the tragedies of the period of the Judges. With this foundation he then is able to explain the enduring theological value of these ancient stories."—*John N. Oswalt, Wesley Biblical Seminary*
Paper, 272 pages, $21.99;
in Canada $32.79

Herald
Press

Orders: 1 800 759-4447
www.mph.org

> "If we suddenly find ourselves face to face with dying, we come up against ultimate questions....After I received the diagnosis of advanced lung cancer, I needed to deal with those questions more intensely than I ever had before."
>
> —DALE AUKERMAN



Hope Beyond Healing
A Cancer Journal

by Dale Aukerman
Foreword by Jim Wallis

The first thing many people think of upon hearing a diagnosis of cancer is death. But for Brethren activist and author Dale Aukerman, the first thought was life. When Dale learned he had lung cancer, his impulse was to vigorously renew his focus on Jesus Christ and God's presence in his life.

Hope Beyond Healing: A Cancer Journal is Dale's record of his faith and life during his nearly three-year battle with cancer. Up to the last hours of life, he shares the highs and lows of his illness, pointing others beyond physical healing toward the hope that comes from faith in Christ.

Hope Beyond Healing: A Cancer Journal by Dale Aukerman available February, 2000 from Brethren Press for $14.95 plus shipping and handling charges.

Brethren Press
This day.

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

The war in Kosovo *destroyed an estimated 100,000 homes.*

Reflections on

A Church of the Brethren peacemaker begi

BY ANDREW J. LOOMIS

Day 1

As far back as I can remember, the teachings of Jesus always came most alive for me in the human expression of the things that make for peace. My life involvement in the Church of the Brethren has had many dimensions, and the church's greatest legacy for me has been its role in shaping my consciousness of ways to seek God's peace here on earth.

My earliest memories are of local church CROP walks and straining to understand lively political discussion around the family dinner table. My heroes were Cowboy Dan (West) and John Kline, fostered by the music of Andy and Terry Murray. I was a young protester at Rocky Flats with other youth at the 1986 National Youth Conference. I came of age in the shadow of fear of nuclear annihilation and developed a political consciousness in the era of Ronald Reagan and the US hand in the wars of Central America. Now as an adult, my bookshelves are stocked with literature from every angle of international peace, authored by theologians, historians, activists, politicians, and political scientists.

My opinions on the practice of nonviolence and the possibility of social justice in our time are the product of my own spiritual growth. They have served to guide my personal life, and now my professional life. It is who I am. And so, at age 30, I seek ways to implement that which I believe and make relevant my faith.

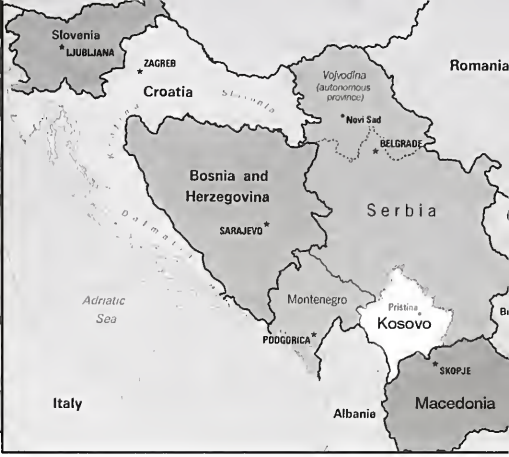
I depart tomorrow on my travels to southeastern Europe and I will leave behind my comfortable home that shelters my own personal pacifism. I will enter one of the world's darkest regions. I expect the things I witness to challenge my system of beliefs in fundamental ways, that which has been safely nurtured in my Pennsylvania church and home. I contemplate what I may find when I begin my journey through the heart of the Balkans, in the tiny province of Kosovo.

Day 3

Kosovo provides a general impression that confirms to some degree the international news I received prior to my arrival here. By March 1999, the Serb military had evicted nearly the entire Kosovar Albanian population from the region, intent on securing an ethnically "pure" Kosovo. The US and its European allies decidedly intervened in March with NATO military forces to stop this Serbian aggression. The region was awash in violence.

Kosovo has now been nearly "cleansed" of an ethnic people for the second time in just eight months. Ethnic Albanian refugees streamed back into the country following NATO's military victory in June, dramatically shifting the demographics of the region. Many Kosovar Albanians actively sought revenge on their Serb neighbors and, over time, violently purged the province of 75 percent of its

This building in Kosovo *was hit by NATO airplanes during NATO's three-month bombing campaign.*



A map of the former Yugoslavia *shows Kosovo, just north of Macedonia.*

Balkan journey

is new job with a lesson in reality and hope

Serb inhabitants.

The landscape here in Kosovo reminds me very much of central Pennsylvania without the livestock. Distant medium-size mountains surround rolling hills and farmland. Small houses grouped in clusters with red clay roofs and white stucco walls dot the green earth. Most people earn their living by growing and selling produce gathered from their small plots of land. Along with the bulky humanitarian vehicles and NATO military equipment on the road, there are an abundance of small wooden-wheeled trailers pulled by single horses or 60 horsepower tractors.

But what is very different from anything I have ever seen is the ratio of houses—as high as 80 percent in some villages—that are visibly destroyed. The violence in Kosovo is estimated to have claimed as many as 100,000 homes. Most were torched from the inside, the outside walls blackened from smoke around the windows and along the eaves. Large chunks of what were walls are scattered around the ground; the scene extends to the horizon in all directions.

But due to the violence committed by both the Serbs and Albanians in Kosovo, culpability for each mark of destruction is unclear. As one Albanian young man commented to me, "In many of the places you don't know who burned the houses, either the Serbs or the Albanians."

Where is God amid this cancer of violence? I watch these scenes of smoldering buildings—the evidence of deliberately provoked red-hot ethnic tensions—and am left feeling sadly irrelevant. How does Jesus' call to peacemaking apply to this context of brutality and lawlessness?

Day 9

My trip through Kosovo has given me my first glimpse into the complexity of inter-ethnic relations in the Balkans. Reflecting on the images of Kosovo that remain like residue in my mind, I acknowledge that the horror reveals the worst that can result from unmanaged or incited ethnic hostility.

I depart tomorrow for Skopje, Macedonia, and will shift my focus to understanding the rhythms of Macedonian life. Macedonia harbors similar ethnic and cultural strains, so-called "fault lines" that are commonly perceived as pervasive in the Balkans.

I am here representing the organization Search for Common Ground in Macedonia, a project of partner organizations Search for Common Ground, based in Washington, D.C., and the European Centre for Common Ground, based in Brussels, Belgium. I am one of about 75 staff members in the Washington office, while there are 8 in the Brussels office, and about 75 more staff members implementing projects in the field. Our work consists of helping Macedonian communities identify their shared interests and gain a sense of ownership of a positive future. Our primary goal is to prevent the kind of violence that I have just witnessed in Kosovo.

Day 13

If Kosovo is the tragic result of inter-ethnic fear and mistrust, then Macedonia represents the pretext. Macedonia is pluralistic, one of the most ethnically mixed countries of former Yugoslavia. But it is also remarkably segregated. Ethnic Macedonians and Albanians live in a maze of cultural, linguistic, and religious differences, yet a clear divide separates the two populations. If dangerous personalities choose to capitalize on the existing apprehension between ethnic and cultural communities, Macedonia could unravel in much the way that Kosovo did in the past 18 months.

More likely, the current state of minimal communication between ethnic groups will deprive the country of the benefits that a diverse population can offer, inhibiting it from moving forward with hope and vigor. The Vardar River cuts decisively through Skopje. Ethnic Albanians function predominantly on the north side of the river, while Macedonians exist mainly on the south side. Public and private institutions rarely serve a diverse population, but instead cater exclusively to one ethnic group or the other. People from one ethnic community, particularly in rural areas, can spend virtually their entire lives without having meaningful contact with people outside their respective ethnic sphere.

A major obstacle to inter-ethnic understanding and cooperation are the segregated media institutions. Television and radio stations, as well as newspapers, are controlled and operated either by Albanian or Macedonian owners and typically operate exclusively in their respective languages. Separate constituencies subsequently view completely different programs, creating media enclaves scattered throughout Macedonia. Albanians and Macedonians receive two different sets of news and entertainment. This increases the propensity for the hardening of ethnic stereotypes and the spread of incomplete or inaccurate perceptions of the intentions of other groups.

The segregation of the public school system has the same effect. A child generally grows up learning in a schoolroom with children of his or her respective ethnicity and language. Friendships are formed within their respective groups; friendships across ethnic lines are rare.

This segregation and limited contact serves as the basis of inter-ethnic mistrust and misunderstanding. Segregation inhibits separate groups from jointly envisioning a positive and integrated future. The projects of Search for Common Ground in Macedonia are designed to establish crossroads between groups by developing channels of communication across ethnic lines. These projects aim to provide an example for what is possible in a pluralistic and integrated society.

Day 18

I have often heard in the US media that the decade's violence in the Balkans is the result of ancient ethnic hatreds. When people hear that I work on efforts to prevent violence in the region, I am usually greeted by something similar to, "Peace in the Balkans? Good luck! They have been fighting there for centuries."

It is true that there is a history of tension in the region. But my experience here and my recent study reveal that the ancient hatred theory is incomplete. Simply, inter-ethnic violence is not an inevitable aspect of life in the region. There are centuries of examples of peaceful coexistence that dwarf the number of cases of violent confrontation. Furthermore, the ancient hatred theory overlooks the role and responsibility of politicians who espouse divisive rhetoric and capitalize on existing fears.

Looking at regional violence through the lens of possibility exposes the real roots of ethnic tension. I consistently find that fear, misunderstanding, ignorance, and mistrust are at the core of the region's violence.

Day 22

Nearing the end of my travels, I reflect back on my experiences in Kosovo and Macedonia against the backdrop of hopelessness that I consistently hear expressed in the US about the Balkans. What does it mean to be a peacemaker in a context such as this? What does peacemaking require in the face of searing injustice and centuries of conflicting history, particularly when the world's elite have dismissed a region's violence as inevitable?

I believe that our first call as peace builders is to hold out hope for regions in despair. The temptation to declare the inevitability of war is an escape hatch beckoning us to slip through, deceiving us into complacency. But the Balkan wars were not preordained. Neither was the genocide of Rwanda, the terror of Pol Pot's Cambodia, nor the 37 years of military dictatorship and war in Guatemala. Wars are about real issues and divergent claims. All wars are preventable.

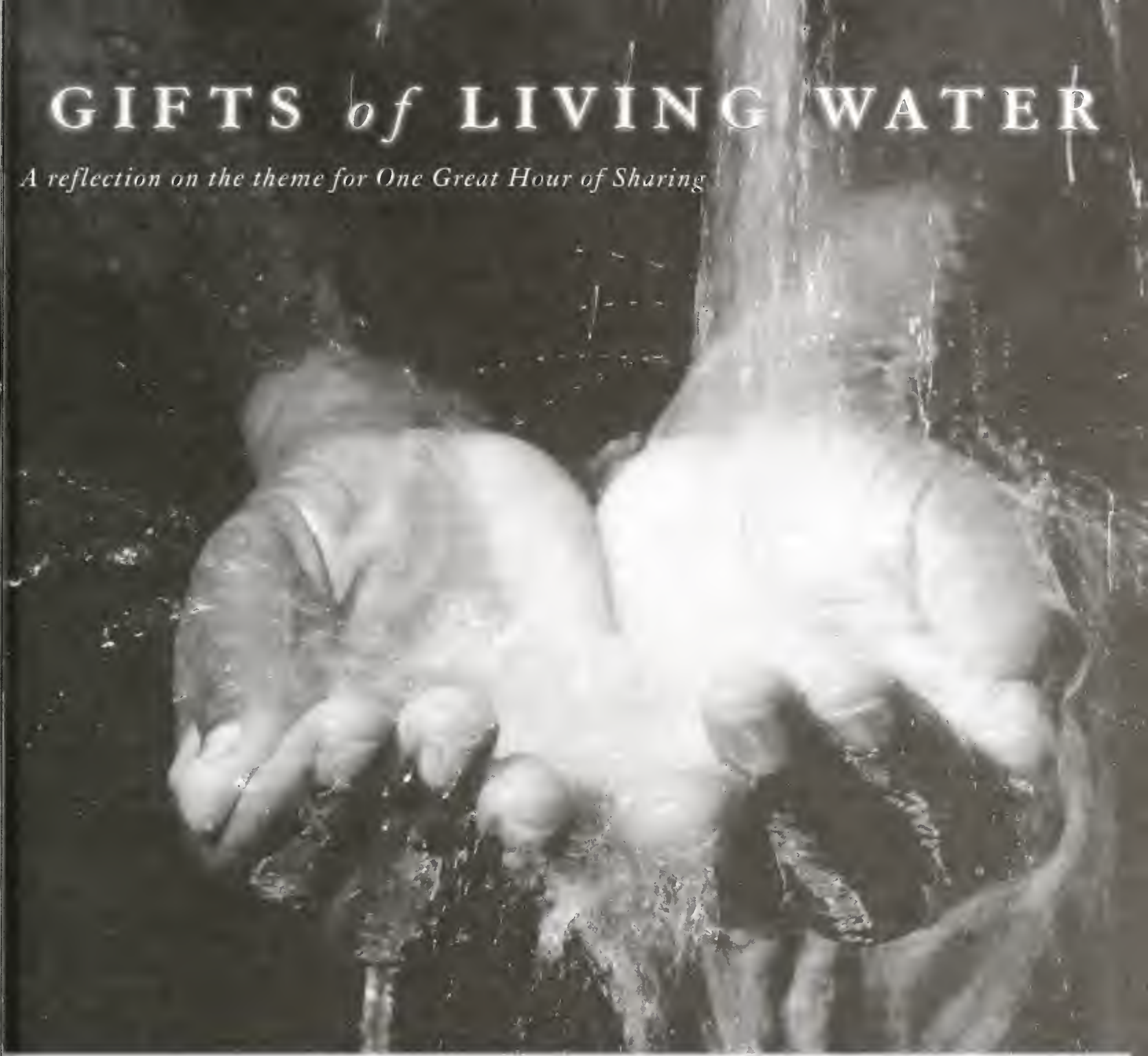
It seems clear that solutions to violence and protracted conflict must also be rooted in the cultural fabric of society. For peace to be lasting, people at all levels of society must be permitted and encouraged to participate. In the case of Macedonia, bridges between cultural groups across all levels—from the grassroots to the political elite—must be built and maintained in order to avoid deepening ethnic divides. Inter-ethnic dialog is the only way to confront cultural myths and dispel deeply ingrained stereotypes. It is the only way to contemplate and articulate a shared future in which all members of society have a stake.

Andrew Loomis, of Takoma Park, Md., is a member of University Baptist and Brethren Church, State College, Pa. He recently moved to the Washington, D.C., area after having spent two years in graduate school at Columbia University in New York City.

Search for Common Ground receives its funding from numerous sources, including the Swiss, Dutch, British, and US governments, the World Bank, UNICEF, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

GIFTS *of* LIVING WATER

A reflection on the theme for One Great Hour of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing

This month Church of the Brethren congregations join nine other denominations in the annual global outreach offering called One Great Hour of Sharing. It is traditionally the largest of the three major denomination-wide offering appeals, usually motivating members to give upwards of $250,000 for Church of the Brethren programs worldwide. The theme for this year's emphasis is "Gifts of Living Water," taken from John 7:38: "Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water." We asked Mervin Keeney, a frequent visitor to the world's hurting peoples, to reflect on the theme.

BY MERVIN KEENEY

Water is an integral part of our lives and the world around us — necessary for our very survival. Although seemingly benign, we have observed water's gathered power in the flash flood, the tidal wave, or the hydroelectric dam. The impact of water's power over time can be observed in a delightful way at the Grand Canyon. In gentler ways, water transforms barren and unproductive land into a blooming, fertile pasture. The arrival of water can turn a desert into an oasis.

My wife, Gwen, and I lived in the semi-desert of northern Sudan in the mid-1980s when we served with the General Board's mission there through the Sudan Council of Churches. In such a climate we were constantly thirsty, and a drink of water was always offered to visitors. We drank it

The call is to receive God's gift of living water, and in t

with thanksgiving, even when its origins were questionable. After months of mouth-parching dryness and fog-like dust storms, the first rains were delicious and refreshing, and within days brought new life to the land. The memory of this dramatic transformation of the land, the air, and even my own feeling of being refreshed, still shapes my appreciation for this blessing of water from the heavens.

The essential human need for water and its transforming power was evident to the desert peoples of the Bible. In such a climate the positive uses and meanings of water were prevalent: essential for survival, hospitality, purifying and cleansing, renewal, bounty and abundance.

The prophets of the Hebrew scriptures were a cantankerous lot. Perhaps a certain amount of orneriness could be expected of anyone uncomfortably caught between the words of God and the actions of the people of Israel. We often think of a prophet as one who can predict the future. Yet the essential task of the prophet among the people of Israel was not to foretell, but to serve as the mouthpiece of God. Prophets spoke both angry chastisement and encouraging words, sometimes wrapped in an obscure vision. Visions of hope described what God wanted—God's promise for the people.

The prophet Isaiah offers a powerful vision of God's presence among the people as water springing up in the burning sands (35:6b-7a). Later he clarifies that God sought not sacrifices and fasting from the people, but responding to those around them by feeding the hungry and clothing the naked, releasing the oppressed (58:6-11). This is not only a call to action, but a promise of presence and empowerment. The passage concludes with God's promise that if we respond and do what is required, God will make us like a watered garden, like an unending spring of water. As people who have received God's blessings, we will become a blessing to others, "like a spring that never fails." The image of abundant water that renews and sustains the people conveys God's promise of bounty and salvation.

The Samaritan woman at the well hears that the water Jesus offers is fully satisfying and never ending. Jesus' words in John 4:14 echo Isaiah's vision, "Those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give them will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." What a claim to make for seemingly insatiable humans! We always want more. Yet Jesus claims with authority that he can match that unending thirst.

Later Jesus says, "Let anyone who thirsts come to me," and seemingly paraphrasing Isaiah, he adds "out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37b-38). Jesus confirms that those who thirst will be satisfied and God's people will become like living waters themselves, giving life and bearing fruit. The call is to receive God's gift of living water, and in the receiving we will be changed and become living water for others.

Like water from a spring, God's bounty flows over us and on to others.

Water from a spring flows over our hands and continues on as a stream. Our hands soon fill and the water continues to flow; we cannot hold it. God's bounty for us flows over us and on to others. We receive God's abundant blessings with thanksgiving and, as we are nurtured by God's blessing, we open our hearts and hands so the living water of God's love can flow through us to bless others.

The spirit in us is that which is able to recognize and respond to God, says Walter Wink. Responding to God is a spiritual activity. When we respond to God's vision for humankind by actions to feed the hungry, dig wells, establish health clinics, and send medicine and blankets, these become spiritual actions. Efforts to accompany those who are threatened, to confront unjust systems, to work for peace—these are spiritual tasks. And a part of God's promise is that our engagement in this work, prompted by God's call and nurtured by God's spirit, will *eiving we will be changed and become living water for others*

change us and those we seek to serve.

As a result, for Christians, acting out of our faith to share the living water that God has showered upon us, there is a spiritual dimension to social and humanitarian assistance. There is no separation of spiritual and social ministries, because for Christians, all of these forms of action are rooted in faithfulness to God's call and hence are interwoven with spiritual dimensions. The debate raging in some Christian circles today, even in some of our congregations, about physical versus spiritual mission, is a false division of Christ's message for us.

The process of baptism gains new meaning when viewed through these texts. In baptism we are washed with water, and in the process we may be physically cleaned. But the power of baptism is in the physical experience prompting spiritual transformation—inviting us to be washed with God's living water so that our souls are cleansed and changed.

> *Sharing the living water that God has showered upon us is a spiritual act.*

One of the early efforts by the Church of the Brethren to respond to global human need was our response to the Armenian massacres and displacement at the hands of the Turks in the 1920s. We rallied to respond to a persecuted and suffering people in a situation that resonated deeply with our own history of persecution. We rallied and raised funds for relief assistance at levels beyond our expectations. The effort galvanized the church in a powerful way.

By allowing God's living water to wash over us, our hearts and hands were opened and God's living waters were received by us more fully, and then flowed on from us to others. The church, its members and structures, gained a new vision for itself and of its ability to be used by God. We were deeply blessed as a community of faith by this experience.

Consistent with the biblical call, Brethren mission efforts have been holistic, responding to human needs for food and water, education, and health care, alongside church planting and Bible training. An extensive well-digging program in partnership with the Nigerian church during the 1970s and 1980s brought the gift of clean water to hundreds of thousands of persons and extended the church into new areas.

More recently we have been living water for persons in the Caribbean and Central America after Hurricanes Georges and Mitch, and in North Korea and Sudan. Globally, we join hands with Church World Service and regional church councils. Locally, many congregations join community efforts to sponsor homeless shelters and operate soup kitchens.

Sometimes we are able to speak about the faith that prompts our actions; sometimes the context inhibits overt religious activity. A wise voice said it well: "Preach every day; use words if you must." But regardless of the words, these are faithful, spiritual actions resonating with the heart of God.

As believers seeking to implement God's vision for the world, we often work alongside peace and justice workers, or relief workers, or a variety of social transformers who bring a secular or humanist grounding to this work. While we may share common goals and perhaps similar visions for our world, we often observe such persons burning out and unable to sustain the unrelenting work over time. It is difficult to maintain perspective and avoid becoming discouraged when one sees little progress in efforts to address poverty, hunger, racism, war. While Christians can also lose hope, of course, we are invited to regularly drink from God's unending living water and be renewed.

Let us receive God's gift of living waters and let them flow through our hearts and hands to bless the lives of sisters and brothers both in our neighborhood and in the global village.

Mervin Keeney, the General Board's director for Global Mission Partnerships, also serves on the executive committee of Church World Service and Witness.

ING WATER

Letters

If Brethren are to keep up to date in the worldwide mission and ministry we are doing in "continuing the work of Jesus," we all need MESSENGER *every month.*

Preach, Sister Christy!

Thanks for the encouraging and disturbing article "Preach, sisters!" in the January/February issue. Encouraging because some women are speaking out and responding to leadership challenges; disturbing because we in the congregations are too slow in calling women to pastoral positions.

I know of some congregations who at first resisted calling a woman pastor, yet, when they did, they were very pleased with their pastor.

The writer of the article is a good example of a woman who has many gifts for ministry and has served the church well at all levels. For a time she was our pastor and we can attest to her professional and personal gifts of ministry. Certainly there are many more women who can be called and would serve well in pastoral ministry.

Howard Miller
Westminster, Md.

Seconding the CPT motion

I was delighted to see the letter by Cliff Kindy (January/February) suggesting that the Christian Peacemaker Teams become an "arm" of the Church of the Brethren. As a six-year reserve corps member of CPT, I have felt closer to my Brethren heritage as a peacemaker during this time than at any other time in my life—even though I served three years in BVS and considered myself on an active peace mission at that time.

I feel that many Church of the Brethren projects today are also on the cutting edge of peacemaking, but CPT often goes one step beyond in its willingness to take risks to intervene in violent situations.

It isn't clear to me exactly what the connection should be between CPT and the Church of the Brethren, but I am totally convinced that the participation of more Brethren in CPT would be of great value both to our denomination and to CPT.

Brethren participate in a large way in many ecumenical groups, several of them programs which our denomination initiated, such as Heifer Project International, Church World Service, and CROP. Even though the Mennonites were more involved than the Brethren in the creation of CPT, I feel that we should be willing to provide a larger number of participants than we currently do.

How wonderful it would be to make it possible for CPT to answer the requests for violence reduction help that have come from Puerto Rico, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, urban centers in the US, and indigenous groups in Canada. We must be about the business of stopping wars before they happen! This is an important dream I have for the Church of the Brethren.

Esther Mohler Ho
Hayward, Calif.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed for the New Windsor Conference Center, located at the lovely, historic Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. The Center is located in a peaceful, rural, treed setting with the theme of *a quiet place to get things done*. It is convenient to Gettysburg, PA, Baltimore, MD, and Washington, D.C. with opportunities for travel, cultural, and recreational events.

We need volunteer hostesses/hosts to help provide hospitality and conference services to a variety of guests in a cozy and homey atmosphere. Maturity and detail orientation needed, along with outgoing personality and genuine interest in providing excellent customer service. Furnished apartment and meals provided during period of service. Small stipend also available. Join us for a few weeks or longer, if you'd like.

For more information, call or write:
Elaine Hyde
Conference Coordinator
Box 188
New Windsor, MD 21776-0188
800-766-1553

Messenger to every member

In the January/February issue of Messenger I learned that next year will be the 150th anniversary of this significant publication.

I have been a regular and careful reader of Messenger for about 75 years. I feel strongly that every Brethren home should be receiving Messenger, and every member should be a regular reader.

In the congregations I served as a regular pastor (I now serve as interim in my 12th church) I encouraged and assisted them in providing Messenger for all church families. In one church they felt it was a good idea but they could not afford it in the church budget. I offered to pay for it for one year, because I felt so strongly the need for all members to read Messenger. The board then decided to put it in the budget, and felt it was a very worthy investment of church funds.

From my 1998 *Yearbook* I observe that the Lititz, Pa., congregation leads the denomination in subscriptions, 338. They started this when I was pastor there about 40 years ago. And the spiritual vitality (and giving) of that congregation would confirm the blessing of having Messenger in all church homes.

I observe that our Brethren homes are blessed with their professional journals—for teachers, farmers, social workers, physicians, etc. They realize they must have their monthly magazine to keep up to date in their special field of interest. And if Brethren are to keep up to date in the worldwide mission and ministry we are doing in "continuing the work of Jesus," we all need Messenger every month.

I write to invite you, encourage you, to make a special effort to get Messenger into every Brethren home by the end of the 150th anniversary year. I offer a few suggested options for your consideration:

1. Put it in the budget of Annual Conference or of the General Board, or . . .
2. Put it in the budget of every congregation. For any congregation that is not able to finance every member subscription, or not willing to do so, arrange for some member of the congregation to do so.
3. Invite a few Brethren with large resources to underwrite the cost for any congregation that may be unable or unwilling to buy subscriptions for every member. Our giving to our church colleges, retirement homes, etc., indicate Brethren have money for any cause that to them is important.

My concern is that every Brethren member be a faithful reader of Messenger. I am convinced it is a worthy goal. And I believe it can be done.

Olden Mitchell
North Manchester, Ind.

The Stillness of the Evening

Your editorial in the December issue, "In the Stillness of the Evening," is uncannily "one" with me and my philosophy of life. I'm less interested in the broader aspects of your editorial than in the deep-down, absolute satisfaction of a contemplative period of sitting by a campfire, in the darkness, recognizing that God is right there with you.

I am well aware that we must not "neglect the assembling of ourselves together" for the purpose of corporate worship, but I also firmly believe that alone with God in the outdoors is just as important as a way to communicate with him. I don't know of a better way to rid one's soul of the "crud" of this mortal life.

You described sitting quietly beside a dying campfire, looking at the stars, and contemplating the possibilities that this situation offered. I can't tell you how many nights I've done the same. I've listened to the cry of a loon, or watched geese in formation heading south, honking as they went. Along with all the possibilities of communication with one's God, there is just no better way to relax and be at peace with the world. I never slept better.

Don Snyder
Waynesboro, Va.

J2K. New hope. New day.

I want to comment on the back cover of the December issue of Messenger. It has caused me to do a lot of thinking. We have heard so much about Y2K and the suspicion, problems, uncertainty, and fear that seems to surround it for so many. (Much of this fear has been caused by some Christian groups.)

I like the concept of J2K as shown on the back cover that helps to refocus on the new hope Jesus can bring to the new days that arrive with a new millennium. Our Lord still provides the best hope for dealing with our world as we face the future.

Let us all give full attention to the message of love, goodwill, hope, and peace He came to bring to our world.

Wayne Lawson
Milford, Ind.

Classified Ads

AUTHOR'S QUERY

Writing book on Kermit Eby Sr. (Indiana), minister, educator, author, labor movement leader. Seeking remembrances, stories, details on his life and contributions from friends, relatives, former students, colleagues, contemporaries. Contact Ron Keener, 164 Pinehill Ct., North Aurora, IL 60542, or ronaldekeener@hotmail.com.

CONFERENCE/SEMINARS

"Shepherds by the Living Springs" is the theme of a day on servant leadership and church renewal set in the context of a Lenten Day Apart at the Brethren Service Center on April 1, sponsored by On Earth Peace Assembly. Led by David Young, the cost with lunch is $22 ($18 for MOR members). For further information, e-mail young-dsy464@desupernet.net. For flier and registrations call OEPA at (410) 635-8705.

INVITATION

Yes, there is a Church of the Brethren in Jacksonville, Florida. And it is nestled one mile south of I-10 (exit 55) between I-95 and I-295 -(between Cassat and Hamilton). Pastor Herb Weaver invites you to come and worship with us. Phone 904-384-3375.

First Church, Chicago. 75 Years – April 29 & 30, 2000. Hundreds of Brethren have been part of our past. We invite you to join our future: 1) Come to Chicago April 29 & 30 for a two-day celebration/tea and homecoming. 2) Help us replace our front windows. Our campaign goal of $40,000 maintains our commitment to East Garfield Park and metro Chicago. More info: call Mary Scott Borea @ 773/235-7038. Pastor Orlando Redekopp. 425 Central Park Ave. Chicago, IL 60624

TRAVEL

Travel with a purpose to: Eastern Europe and the "Passion Play," July 31 to August 14, 2000, with Wendell and Joan Bohrer. Visit Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava, Krakow, Warsaw and much more. First Class tickets to the Passion Play, Folklore Show in Warsaw, Prague and Budapest. A Danube River Cruise in Budapest. Buffet breakfast and dinner throughout. Contact the Bohrers by mail—3651 US Hwy 27 S. #40, Sebring, FL 33870.0 Tel/Fax 941-382-9371. E-mail rdwboh@strato.net

Travel with us by coach to Annual Conference in Kansas City, leaving Elizabethtown, July 13, returning July 21. Visit Bethany Seminary in Richmond, Indiana enroute. For information, please write to J. Kenneth Kreider, 1300 Sheaffer Rd, Elizabethtown PA 17022.

Travel to the White Continent—Antarctica—including Argentina and Uruguay, January, 2001. Optional visits to Iguassau Falls and Chile available. Write to J. Kenneth Kreider, 1300 Sheaffer Road, Elizabethtown PA 17022.

Travel in the steps of Jesus, Paul, and John June 26–July 10, 2000 — 15 days Six days Turkey - Tarsus, Antioch, all cities of Revelation 2–3, full day in Ephesus area. Six days Israel - Sea of Galilee area, Nazareth, Megiddo, Caesarea, Jerusalem area, plus Qumran, Masada, and Bethlehem. $3150.00 (per person-double occ.) from Garden City, Kansas - adjustment if you meet group in New York. Deadline: April 10, 2000. Arrangements by MegaTrails of New York. For brochure call 316-276-6681; email: laree@gcnet.com or write Rainbow Tours, Lilia Shearmire, 1008 Lyle Avenue, Garden City KS 67846

POSITION AVAILABLE

Coordinator of Special Events and Marketing for nonprofit agency serving children and families. Conducts fund-raising activities, presentations, etc. Bachelor's Deg. in the field of human relations/human services preferable with three yrs. exp. in FR/Marketing. Extensive exp. in conducting special events, public speaking, etc. may be substituted for deg. Flexibility necessary; evening and weekend work required. Computer literacy and ability to produce one's own corres. necessary. Send cover ltr., resume, and three prof. references to: Executive Director, Children's Aid Society, 2886 Carlisle Pike, New Oxford, PA 17350

Brethren Housing Association, a non-profit organization celebrating its tenth year serving the homeless families in the Harrisburg, Pa., area has a position available for an Executive Director. Duties involve broad administrative responsibilities including directing BHA's program, public relations, fund raising and property oversight. Experience preferred in administration and/or pastoral work with strong interpersonal skills. Hours and benefits negotiable. Please send resume to: Paul Wessell, Rhoads & Sinon LLP, PO Box 1146, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

Teachers Wanted

Hillcrest School * Nigeria

This is a special opportunity to teach in a K-12 international, Christian school with an excellent academic reputation. Positions are available for 2000–2001 school year in general elementary, science, math, and other subjects. Teaching credentials are required.

Kulp Bible College * Nigeria

Based at the primary pastoral educational institution of the Nigerian church, this position is central in church leadership development. Course subjects include Brethren identity, Bible, and theology. Seminary education is expected. Starting date is negotiable.

Contact: Merv Keeney, 800-323-8039, e-mail: mission_gb@brethren.org

FINANCIAL RESOURCE COUNSELOR

A full-time position based in the northeastern part of the US. This individual will visit and thank donors and congregations and help connect them with the giving possibilities to General Board ministries. Interviews will continue until the position is filled.

For more information and application form contact:

Elsie Holderread at
800-742-5100 or
e-mail
eholderread_gb@brethren.org

Brethren Press

Due to a computer systems upgrade, Brethren Press will be **closed March 27 to 29.**

Orders may be faxed or e-mailed during this time, but telephone orders will not be possible. Thank you for your understanding. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

Turning Points

New members

Bethlehem, Boones Mill, Va.: York and Eleanor Hubble, Amanda Hurt, Matthew Flora
Boise Valley, Meridan, Idaho: Darlene Garwick
Bush Creek, Monrovia, Md.: Jessica Flook, Bill Gold, Joy Keovichith, Elena Nunn, Stacey Seibert, Dorcas Gold, Robert Luhrs, Alice Luhrs
Champaign, Ill.: Megan E. Jacobs
Dupont, Ohio: roxie Palmer, Dusty Palmer
Ephrata, Pa.: Earl Redcay, Michael Redcay, Gene Buch, John and Sharon Pinkas
Fairview, Rocky Mount, Va.: Ivy Jr. and Ina Dean Layman, Gerald and Martha Montgomery, Gene and Bernice Moyer
First, Reading, Pa.: Nancy Custo, Sierra Parson, Carolyn Tetley, Bee Zerby, Dale Hylton, Gladys Hylton, Eli Rivera, Sherri Rivera
Free Spring, Mifflintown, Pa.: Mark, Deb, and Michelle Heisey, Larry and Roxie Jones, Barry and Lori Lauver, Amanda Myers, Jennifer Varner
Friendship, Linthicum, Md.: David Correa, Jennifer Mitchell, Cory Senter, Scott Syms, Roberta Dwyer
Greenwood, Mountain Grove, Mo.: Anna Mae Creiger, Darrell Rader, Kathryn Anita Yarbrough
Guernsey, Monticello, Ind.: Dana and Deb Hood
Hanover, Pa.: Joanne Colkitt
Independence, Kan.: Randy and Donna Handly, Dale and Debra McMaster, Pauline Wolf, Arthur Arnwine
Logansport, Ind.: Denise Ploss, Kenny Smith
Modesto, Calif.: Lola Fulk
Mohrsville, Pa.: Crystal Bowman, Christina Boyer, John Boyer, Wanda Boyer, Kelly Jacoby, Uchenna Nwoke
Osceola, Mo.: Harold McCrea, Betty McCrea, Regina Miller
Pomona Fellowship, Pmona, Calif: Ralph and Lucille Robeson, Yvonne Belcher
Roxbury, Johnstown, Pa.: Jackie Howard
Sheldon, Iowa: Elizabeth Jean Elder
Somerset, Pa.: Seth Forry, Brianna Beeghly, Samantha Barron, Andrew Barron, Erik Bittner, Mark Sarver, Mindy Sarver, Larry Reiber, Crystal Reiber, Rachel Reiber, Sarah Reiber, Richard Critchfield, Jo Ann Critchfield, Rebecca Critchfield, Cheryl Schrock, Eva Lape, Jennifer Mosholder
Spring Branch, Wheatland, Mo.: Ronnie and Diana Smith, Helen Hentzi
Sugar Valley, Loganton, Pa.: Diane Breon, Adam Breon
Troy, Ohio: Betty Burgner
Walker's Chapel, Mt. Jackson, Va.: Brandon Buchanan, Stephanie Buchanan, John Buchanan
West Goshen, Goshen, Ind.: Guy and Christina Biddle, Marc Hall, Carrie Wenger, Megan and Chelsea Stutsman, Stephanie Bates
White Oak, Manheim, Pa.: Matthew Diffenderfer, Gordon Gregory, Tiersha Heisey, Katelyn Kampen, Kelly Kegerreis, Allen Beachy, Able Heagy, Tiffani Heisey, Emily Copenhaver, Korina Copenhaver, Trulin Martin, Janelle Gregory, Derik Fahnestock

Wedding anniversaries

Beach, Lester and Naomi, Martinsburg, Pa., 65
Grim, Earl and Josephine, Kansas City, Kan., 60
Guyer, C. Albert and Hazel B., Quincy, Pa., 50
McCoy, Meade and Velma, Marion Center, Pa., 70
Moore, Arthur and Genevieve, Nampa, Idaho, 73
Poulicek, Richard and Verbalea, Wheatland, Mo., 55
Rose, Orville and Verna, New Carlisle, Ohio, 65
Rowlands, Bill and Ginny, Wyomissing, Pa., 55
Shaffer, Richard M. and Edith, Gardners, Pa., 50
Shaw, Robert and Pearl, Uniontown, Pa., 65
Zimmer, Margaret and Glenn, New Lebanon, Ohio, 50

Deaths

Amspacher, Roy, 77, Hanover, Pa., Nov. 14
Andrews, Rodney A., 91, Mt. Solon, Va., Nov. 15
Bachman, Martha Wenger, 77, Lebanon, Pa., July 11
Baldwin, Lina, 81, McPherson, Kan., Dec. 1
Batdorf, Paul, 91, Troy, Ohio, Aug. 4
Bechdolt, Pauline, 84, Flora, Ind., July 21
Becker, Rebecca, 32, Lititz, Pa., July 12
Boeshaar, Jane L., 84, Springfield, Ohio, Oct. 12
Boyd, Kevin, 25, Akron, Pa., Oct. 2
Burkholder, Sarah, 92, Dupont, Ohio, Nov. 17
Burton, D. Conrad, 77, Long Beach, Calif., March 31, 1999
Brooks, Venora, 95, Wheatland, Mo., Sept. 22
Brubaker, Bertha, 98, Dayton, Ohio, Nov. 9
Buell, Ruby P., 100, Ocean Park, Wash., May 24
Burkholder, Sadie, 94, Manheim, Pa., Nov. 18
Burtner, Charles A., Jr., 64, Elkton, Va., Nov. 29
Cain, Betty, Hermitage, Mo., Oct. 21
Cassel, Naomi, 84, Manheim, Pa., Jan. 11, 1999
Cline, Ferman D., 70, Linville, Va., Nov. 25
Cline, Luther F., 83, New Market, Va., Oct. 31
Combs, Marlin G., 64, Mathias, W.Va., Dec. 15
Conner, Evelyn E., 86, Stephens City, Va., Nov. 6
Cornwell, Nina E., 84, Luray, Va., Dec. 12
Craun, James L., 71, Staunton, Va., Dec. 6
Cripe, Florence, 81, Flora, Ind., March, 1999
Cummings, Esther, 88, Logansport, Ind., Oct. 30
Davis, John, 63, Thompsontown, Pa., Sept. 24
Davis, Mary, 80, Troy, Ohio, Nov. 29
Dise, Don L., 77, Cayman Islands, B.W.I., Sept. 27
Dixon, Paul R., 83, Wayesboro, Va., Nov. 28
Dohner, Ward, 88, Greenville, Ohio, Oct. 28
Dove, E. Junior, 75, Broadway, Va., Nov. 4
Dove, Leota G., 84, Mathias, W.Va., Nov. 24
Edwards, Herman, Tuscola, Tex., Dec. 2
Estep, Paul Henry, 80, Timberville, Va., Dec. 11
Fahnestock, Naomi, 86, Manheim, Pa., Nov. 28
Farling, Erlan L., 86, New Carlisle, Ohio, Nov. 29
Fox, Lawrence "Ben," 83, Flora, Ind., June 11, 1998
Gindlesperger, Merle D., 89, Johnstown, Pa., Jan. 10, 1999
Gochenour, Emmett N., 76, Stanley, Va., Nov. 5
Good, Norma L., 66, Timberville, Va., Nov. 18
Good, Willard Dale, 75, New Market, Va., Dec. 1
Grove, Earl M., 81, Grottoes, Va., Dec. 3
Halligan, Helen, 81, Akron, Pa., Sept. 24
Halterman, Treva L., 67, Harrisonburg, Va., Dec. 3
Hambrick, Helen, Troutville, Va., July 1
Hay, Wade G., 80, Friedens, Pa., Nov. 19
Henry, Charles W. "Chiz," 81, Johnstown, Pa., Feb. 27, 1999
Hill, Bernal, 83, Nampa, Idaho, July 10
Hoffman, Luther, Sr., 98, Bath, N.Y., Sept. 14
Keck, Edith, 81, Akron, Ohio, Nov. 25
Kiser, Luther M., 87, Staunton, Va., Nov. 25
Koehler, Icel E., 93, Udell, Iowa, Nov. 21
Krennich, Alice, 93, Ephrata, Pa., Sept. 14
Laprad, John, 87, Delphi, Ind., Jan. 31, 1999
Lewis, Violet H., Glen Burnie, Md., Nov. 29
Life, Virginia, 76, Harrisonburg, Va., Nov. 1
Loump, Irvin, 79, Mt. Joy, Pa., Nov. 10, 1998
McCoy, Gurnie E., 81, Stanley, Va., Dec. 3
Martin, J.C., 63, Stanley, Va., Dec. 3
Martin, Samuel, 79, Lancaster, Pa., June 5
Miller, Homer T., 78, Harrisonburg, Va., Nov. 17
Mosholder, Evelyn, 87, Holsopple, Pa., Nov. 12
Nauman, Helen, 90, Manheim, Pa., April 6
O'Baugh, Hiram F., 88, Crimora, Va., Nov. 22
Pitsenbarger, Dolen L., 59, Grottoes, Va., Nov. 19
Powell, Ted, 55, Covington, Ohio, Oct. 30
Rader, Martha, 88, Troutville, Va., Dec. 7
Rowe, Bertha P., 92, Broomfield, Colo., Nov. 27
Ruhl, Lucille, 93, Manheim, Pa., Jan. 4, 1999
Rush, Ruby, 82, Maurertown, Va., Nov. 13
Shenk, Florence, 101, Manheim, Pa., Oct. 31
Sherman, Gerald Vernon, 85, Goshen, Ind., Dec. 6
Shipp, John R., 76, Rockingham County, Va., Oct. 27
Shirk, Richard, 83, Mifflintown, Pa., June 6
Shull, Donald W., 51, Mount Solon, Va., Nov. 5
Sponaugle, Lizetta, 90, Franklin, W.Va., Nov. 3
Stuart, Shirley, 76, Hanover, Pa., Nov. 10
Tyler, Mary Lou, 45, Independence, Kan., Sept. 19
Vandevander, Almeda, 76, Cherry Grove, W.Va., Nov. 1
Vickroy, Evelyn, 83, Johnstown, Pa., Sept. 29
Wampler, Anna, 94, Bridgewater, Va., Nov. 20
Warlitner, Alice V., 91, Harrisonburg, Va., Nov. 2
Wert, Ruth, 79, Mifflintown, Pa., April 26
Whittington, Jean, 65, Woodstock, Va., Dec. 4
Wilson, Dora C., 95, Moorefield, W.Va., Oct. 30
Witmer, Ann, Seminole, Fla., Nov. 20
Woodie, Rae, 76, Troutville, Va., Aug. 13
Wright, Andra, 88, Bridgewater, Va., Oct. 1
Zellers, Roy, 93, Lancaster, Pa., April 29
Ziegler, Gertrude, 87, Dixon, Ill., Dec. 15
Zipf, Esther F., 75, Englewood, Fla., March 17, 1999

Pastoral placements

Berkley, Richard Wayne, from interim to permanent, Danville, Va.
Brumbaugh, Alan, from Bellwood, Pa., to Dunnings Creek, New Paris, Pa.
Coulter, Russell L., from Bethel, Arrington, Va., to Crab Orchard, W.Va.
Davis, Jim, from Pyrmont, Delphi, Ind., to North Winona, Warsaw, Ind.
Derr, Horace, from Rockhill Furnace, Pa., to Indiana, Pa.
Fike, J. Melvin and Lisa, from Moorefield, W.Va., to Antioch, Rocky Mount, Va.
Miller, David Lloyd, from Carson Valley, Dun cansville, Pa., to Lick Creek, Bryan Ohio

Licensings

Hartwell, Jerry Lee, Dec. 11, 1998, New Covenant, Chester, Va.
Seilhamer, Larry Chester, New Covenant, Chester, Va., Dec. 11, 1998
Smith, Gregory Lee, Jr., Feb. 12, 1999, Williamson Road, Roanoke, Va.
Yoder, Rebekah Lingerfelt, May 20, Goshen City, Goshen, Ind.

Ordinations

Elgin, Richard Glenn, Sept. 16, Lynchburg, Va.
Frantz, Lyllis, 82, McPherson, Kan., Nov. 21
Gilley, William Daniel, Sept. 16, Crab Orchard, W.Va.
Hanks, Thomas Patrick Joseph, July 17, Fraternity, Winston-Salem, N.C.
Kerkove, David, Aug. 6, English River, South English, Iowa
Shelton, Harry Wayne, Jan. 30, 1999, Rocky Mount, Va.
Surin, Joseph Philip, Oct. 23, Prices Creek, West Manchester, Ohio
Wade, Marvin Dale, Jan. 30, 1999, Shelton, Mount Airy, N.C.

Editorial

The people of Turning Points

When I was a cub reporter for a daily newspaper I was assigned, in one of the enduring traditions of the trade, to write obituaries. Never mind that I was fresh from college, highly educated, and more highly opinionated, I set about at the bottom of the totem pole dedicated to becoming the best obit writer I could be. I got to where I could write finished copy while still on the phone with the funeral director. On the first day back after a summer holiday weekend, the funeral director would gleefully tell me he had a pile of obits so high it would wear me out. I'd say I wished I were making as much money as he was from this, but bring them on.

Swaggering about disasters and the dead was part of the allure of the business for me until one Saturday night when I was the reporter on duty. A deputy called in to say a car had gone too fast around a curve, its door had flown open, and two children were thrown out, both killed. I wrote the story and handed it in, but it got to me as none other had. I thought about the father who was driving, the mother at home, the children. Reporters don't cry, but this one about did.

Ever after I have tried to approach names as people and to bring some reverence to obituaries, no matter how high the pile. So each month when I compile Turning Points, carried on the preceding page, I say a little prayer for each of the deceased as I list them, remembering that she is a mother or he is a son, and each is a child of God. Behind every listing is a story, a milestone, a point of turning.

Most of the people I list under "Deaths" were old when they died, so I noticed last month when I typed this: "Brumbaugh, Arlan Scott, 35, Martinsburg, Pa., Oct. 9." And just below it this: "Brumbaugh, Barbara Jo 'Buffy,' 33, Martinsburg, Pa., Oct. 9."

"It was a terrible tragedy," said Mabel Hollinger, the loyal Messenger representative for the Curryville, Pa., congregation, who had sent in the notice. She told me the basics of the auto accident, then arranged for me to speak to Don and Doris Brumbaugh, parents of Arlan.

"Because there was alcohol involved, our first thought was, people don't need to hear about that," said Don Brumbaugh. "But then we realized we have a story to tell." Even before the accident he had agreed to go on the ballot for area representative of Pennsylvanians Concerned about Alcohol Problems, a group that sends speakers to talk about alcohol abuse in schools and churches. Don was elected two weeks after the deaths of his son and daughter-in-law.

"Our son started drinking when he was a senior in high school," Don explained. "He got into some problems then and went through counseling. He always felt that he could handle it, but he couldn't. I've always been one for total abstinence because you never know who will become addicted." Doris blames peer pressure for the beginnings of the problem in high school. "We couldn't do anything about it," she says. "It happens."

It was about 11 p.m. that Saturday night last October when the Brumbaughs got a knock on the door of their home in Curryville. Their son and his wife had gone for a daytrip of hiking at Raystown Lake near Huntingdon. On the way back, about a mile from their home outside of Martinsburg, the car had gone out of control and slid sideways into a tree. Arlan's blood alcohol level was far above the legal limit.

Arlan had worked with his father on the family dairy farm until about four years ago when he left to join a modular housing firm, becoming a crew foreman. Barbara and her daughter Paula, Arlan's stepdaughter, were baptized at the Curryville church three years ago, although Arlan and Barbara lately had not been attending regularly. Barbara and Arlan both were responsible workers and parents, yet the family could tell there were continuing problems with alcohol.

Don Brumbaugh has been re-reading the story of Samson (Judges 13-16), instructed by an angel to "drink no wine or strong drink." Unable to keep his purity, Samson's life deteriorated into dysfunction. But he pleaded with the Lord for one more chance and got it. "My son didn't get one more chance," Don said.

The lack of a will caused uncertainty about custody of the two children for a time. "One of the biggest things I tell people now is to have a will," Don says. Now the two girls—Yvette, 9, and Paula Boyer, 15—are living with the Brumbaughs, who are both 66. "The second time around is really different," says Don, who has two other sons and a daughter. "The last time we had a 15-year-old in the house was 30 years ago." For Paula, the daughter of Barbara's first marriage, these times are especially difficult. Her own father had been killed in an alcohol-related auto accident.

The Curryville Church of the Brethren has wrapped its arms around the Brumbaughs, helping to establish a trust fund at the bank for the children, supporting Doris each Monday at prayer group, being available for child care, contributing to PCAP. "This really has made me study the Bible," Don says. "We are truly aware of how the Lord has directed our lives."—Fletcher Farrar

CAREGIVING IS

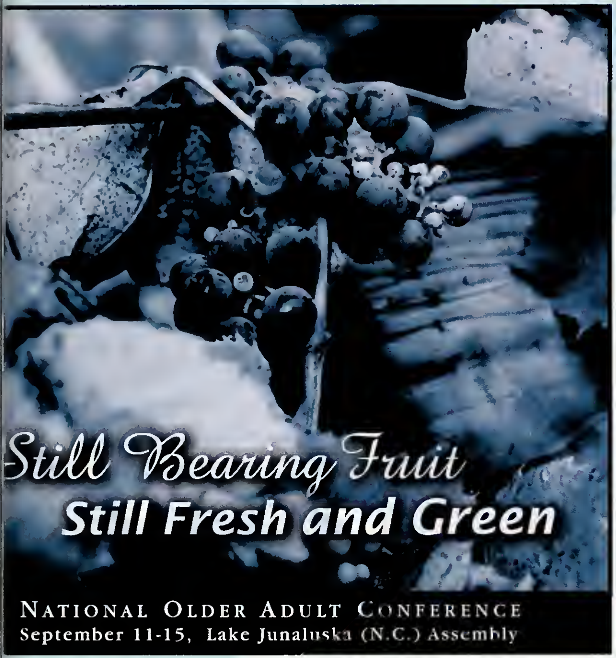

Still Bearing Fruit
Still Fresh and Green
NATIONAL OLDER ADULT CONFERENCE
September 11-15, Lake Junaluska (N.C.) Assembly

Photo by Jim Hauptli

> "NOAC is like a refresher course in living and growing older. It provides a shot of energy, vitality and vision for the future."

— Gordon and Darlene Bucher
Manchester (Ind.) Church of the Brethren

"The National Older Adult Conference is like a refresher course in living and growing older. It provides a shot of energy, vitality and vision for the future. The conference gives us insight into some of the issues of living longer and a renewed appreciation for the life of the Church of the Brethren. We are looking forward to the upcoming National Older Adult Conference, the fifth conference held in beautiful Lake Junaluska. The conference Bible studies, presentations and activities are inspirational and downright fun — it does us good to laugh, relax and visit with old friends."

If you have not received your copy of the NOAC registration brochure, call ABC at (800) 323-8039.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Association of
Brethren Caregivers

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120
phone (847) 742-5100 fax (847) 742-5160
www.brethren.org/abc/

ABC's ministries are made possible through individual and congregational contributions.

214th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI

July 15 - July 19, 2000

Love as I have loved you

John 15:12

PROGRAM BOOKLET

(Available in May)

Please send the following:

- _____ Copies at $9.00 each of the 2000 Annual Conference Booklet (regular binding)
- _____ Copies at $12 each of the 2000 Annual Conference Booklet (spiral binding)
- _____ Copies at $2.00 each of the 2000 Annual Conference Information Packet

Name______________________________

Address______________________________

City______________________ State_____ Zip__________

Amount remitted $______________________________

(Delegates sending the delegate authorization form and registration fee will automatically receive one program booklet without further

Information about Conference programs and reservation forms may be obtained by contacting your pastor or:

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OFFICE 1451 DUNDEE AVENUE ELGIN, ILLINOIS 60120

VOLUNTEER HELPERS

I am volunteering my help with Conference tasks I have marked below.

I have numbered them in order of preference.

I plan to arrive at Conference on ______________________

- _____Registration (computer experience required)
- _____Usher (business and general sessions)
- _____Teller
- _____Information/mail desk
- _____Nurse

Please circle approximate age 16-22 22-30 30-40 40-50 50-60 60+

Name______________________________

Address______________________________

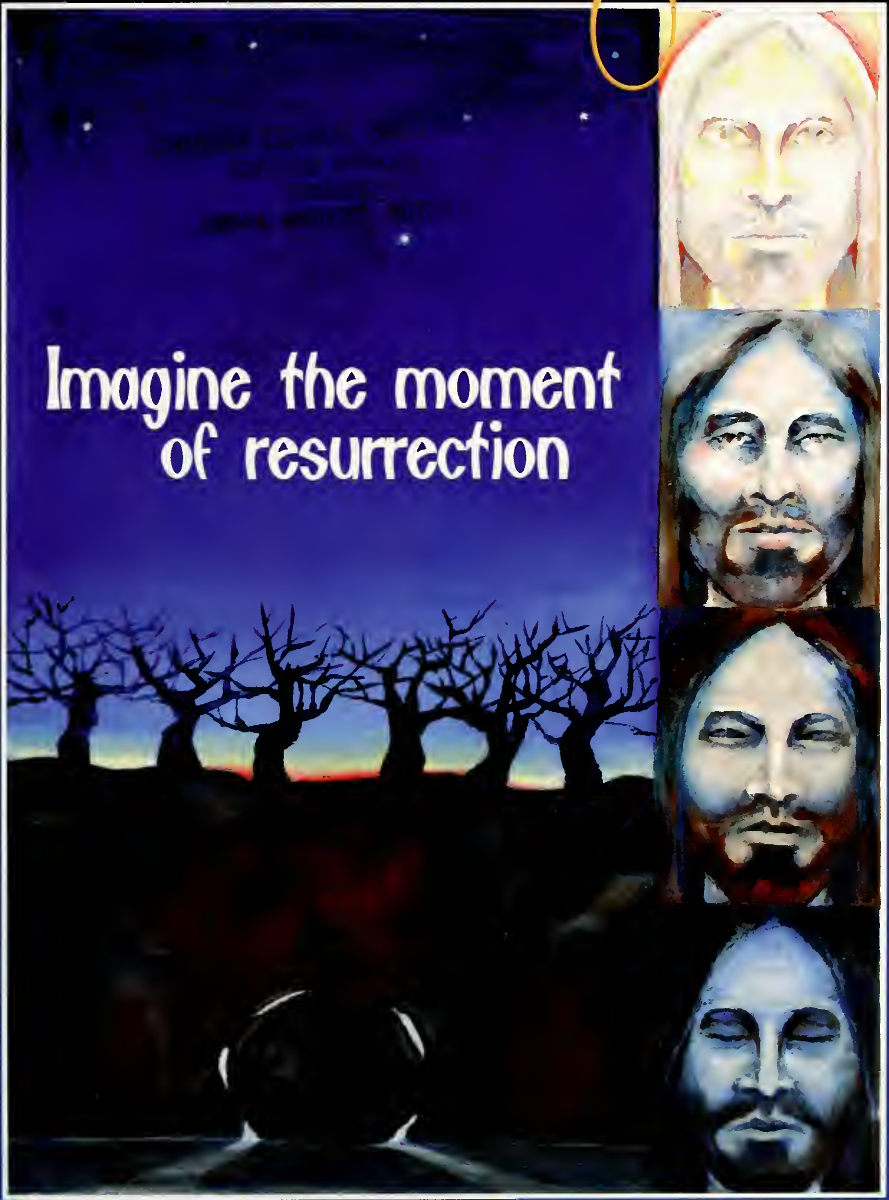
City______________________ State____ Zip__________

Telephone (_____)______________________________

Additional volunteers may indicate on a separate sheet their interest in serving.

Church of the Brethren April 2000 www.brethren.org

Messenger



Imagine the moment of resurrection

Need to catch a little fresh air between your meetings?

Get out to the BBT Fitness Challenge & Golf Outing at Annual Conference.

BBT Fitness Challenge
Monday, July 17, 7:00 a.m.

A 5K race for runners and walkers on a measured course.
Besides a good workout, participants will receive

- a commemorative tee shirt
- post-race breakfast (fruit, muffins, juice)
- prizes for category winners

Fee: $15

BBT Golf Outing
Thursday, July 20, 8:00 a.m.

Format: team scramble
Expanded this year to include all interested golfers attending Annual Conference.
Fee: $40, covers greens fees, cart, range balls, beverages, lunch and prizes.

All conference participants welcome. For more informatio
and registration forms, call 800-746-1505, ext. 39

Messenger

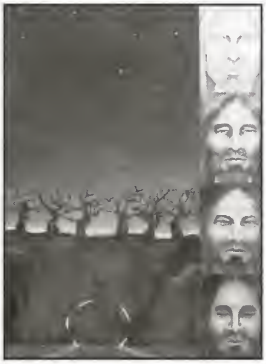
Vol. 149, No. 3 April 2000 www.brethren.org

Editor: Fletcher Farrar
News: Walt Wiltschek
Subscriptions: Peggy Reinacher
Publisher: Wendy McFadden
Designer: Marianne Sackett
Advertising: Russ Matteson

On the cover: Our Easter cover is by Paul Grout, whose art and ministry were featured in the April 1999 edition. Grout, who is pastor of Genesis Church of the Brethren, Putney, Vt., has completed a series of paintings on the Easter theme, "Stations of the Resurrection." Grout wrote the poem below to accompany the cover painting.

Imagine the Moment of Resurrection

Imagine the moment
of resurrection
when light penetrated
what seemed impenetrable
what seemed eternal darkness, the tomb,
that moment
in all of human history
that changed everything
yet appeared
as the world awoke
just another morning.
—Paul Grout



26
A QUIET PLACE

10 The church and mental illness
The death last summer of Wes Albin, an active member of the Harrisburg, Pa., congregation, has opened this discussion of how churches can deal with depression, a common but misunderstood form of mental illness.

14 A doctor with a mission
With support from US Brethren, a Dominican Republic doctor who is a member of the Dominican Church of the Brethren has taken her faith and medicine on a mission to help Haitian refugees in labor camps.

19 Caring for creation in Belize
Upon their return from a Church of the Brethren "Faith Expedition" to Central America, three writers reflect on the Christian response to environmental destruction.

24 The Easter spiritual
"Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble." Reflecting on the deeper meaning of the familiar music, Ken Gibble writes: "When resurrection happens, you tremble."

26 A Quiet Place
A little old farmhouse in Indiana, on the grounds of Camp Mack, has been transformed into a spiritual retreat center where tired souls can find rest and renewal, where they can be close to God.

Departments

2 From the Publisher
3 In Touch
6 News
28 Letters
31 Turning Points
32 Editorial

From the Publisher

Those who read small print may have noticed lots of transition within the team that produces MESSENGER. While editor Fletcher Farrar is now an old-timer within the group, just about everyone else has come on board since fall. (We even changed printers a few months ago.)

Peggy Reinacher became acquainted with the Brethren last summer when she began as a temporary employee to help get subscription processing back on schedule after a major change in computer software. When long-time subscriptions coordinator Vicki Roche left in September, we were fortunate to have Peggy already trained and ready to go. She has excelled at finding ways to make the process more efficient.

Supervision of subscriptions and selling ad space have recently shifted into Brethren Press marketing. To these and all his other marketing tasks, manager Russ Matteson has brought energy, skill, creativity, and a keen sense of who the Brethren are. With business and seminary degrees, pastoral experience, and several years managing bookstores, his background is perfect for Brethren Press.

News manager Walt Wiltschek eased into the job by filling in on an interim basis when Nevin Dulabaum moved down the hall to the Brethren Benefit Trust. So when we hired Walt, he already knew just about everything he needed to know. In addition to broadcasting Brethren news through Newsline and giving attention to the denominational website, Walt is preparing the news section of MESSENGER. His twin passions for journalism and ministry (he comes straight from the Westminster, Md., congregation, where he was associate pastor) make him a natural for his new position.

With the next issue we will bring back an old name, that of Paul Stocksdale. He started his career with MESSENGER shortly after college, but left several years ago for a new job. He's been honing his design skills in the rarefied air of a Chicago ad agency, but never stopped providing occasional freelance design work for various agencies of the church. He comes back to us now because he and his wife, Cynthia, have just gone full-time running their own business, Cedar House Design.

Paul picks up where Marianne Sackett leaves off. A freelance designer, Marianne has designed about two years' worth of MESSENGERS, working from her home office in Chicago. Not only is she an expert at Quark, but on more than one occasion she's gone the second mile for us—driving the materials to Elgin in order to save us a day in the schedule, for example.

In addition to those whose names appear on the masthead, there are other outstanding but unaccredited folks who also help the magazine get out the door and into readers' mailboxes. However, the teamwork isn't really complete until you, our faithful readers, take the magazine into your homes and make it part of your lives. Thanks for being a member of the MESSENGER family. I wish the masthead were big enough to list you all.

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

MESSENGER
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:
preinacher_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 847-742-5100
Fax: 847-742-6103

Display advertising:
rmatteson_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039
Fax: 847-742-1407

Editorial:
ffarrar_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 217-525-9083
Fax: 217-525-9269

Subscription rates:
$16.50 individual rate
$12.50 church individual plan
$10.50 church group plan
$10.50 gift subscriptions

If you move, clip address label and send with new address to MESSENGER Subscriptions, at the above address. Allow at least five weeks for address change.

Connect electronically:
For a free subscription to *Newsline,* the Church of the Brethren e-mail news report, write cobnews@aol.com.

To view the official Church of the Brethren Web site, point your browser to http://www.brethren.org.

MESSENGER is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage matter Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 17, 1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of the Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religion News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Biblical quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New Revised Standard Version. MESSENGER is published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Church of the Brethren General Board. Periodical postage paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing office, April 1998. Copyright 1999, Church of the Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0355.
Postmaster: Send address changes to MESSENGER, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

Printed on recycled paper

David Wilson

Don Brandt and Geraldine

How one man started his own heifer project

Don Brandt, a member of the Mechanicsburg, Pa., congregation, is neither a farmer nor a rancher. The closest he has come is to work at a plant nursery, and he helps sell produce at the Lebanon, Pa., disaster relief auction each fall.

He considered raising produce for the auction, until he got the idea that maybe he could grow something bigger.

He purchased a young calf at the auction and named her "Geraldine." With the help of his wife, Lois, and some friends he fed, immunized, and had the heifer bred, returning her to the auction the next year. On the day she faced the buyers, Geraldine behaved "like a good Brethren cow," in Don's words, bringing in a respectable $1,075 for the disaster fund.

Don says the venture into cattle-raising was so enjoyable he might do it again—if there is a heifer as appealing as Geraldine!—Sara Wilson

Married for 70 years, one day at a time

It was a quiet celebration on Sept. 12, a small family dinner, that marked the 70th year since Meade and Velma McCoy, of Marion Center, Pa., were united in a simple ceremony at the Presbyterian parsonage.

"We've had our ups and downs like everybody else," says Velma. She and her husband are both 90.

Five years ago she was down with a heart condition and doctors didn't think she would survive. But after receiving a pacemaker she bounced back. After Christmas her husband Meade was hospitalized for awhile, and Velma baked fresh buns for the folks from church who went to visit him. The McCoys live with their son, William, a registered nurse who helps to care for them both.

They've been going to the Purchase Line Church of the Brethren, Clymer, Pa., since 1940, when the pastor then, Dorsey Rotruck (currently of McPherson, Kan.) came to visit their daughter who was sick with pneumonia. "We have a lot of 'almost-grandchildren' at our church," says Velma. "There are a lot of young people who look up to us."

What is the secret to 70 years of marriage? "I asked my husband that and he had no idea," Velma says. "We plug along. You just have to keep plugging along I guess."

Roy and Jean Judy *with Lucille and Alton McDaniel.*

Roy Judy completes 40 years

On Jan. 1 Roy Judy, and his wife, Jean, were honored for serving the Ridgely, Md., congregation for 40 years. He began by sharing the pastorate with Alton McDaniel, each preaching every other Sunday; then Judy went to full time in 1961. Many friends and former members of the congregation came to celebrate the occasion, including Alton McDaniel, who brought the morning message, "Blessed are the History-makers."

Youth take a hard look at racism

Jan 7–9 was the date of a young adult retreat held at Camp Eder, sponsored by both the Southern Pennsylvania District and On Earth Peace Assembly. The retreat was attended by 15 young adults. We also had to acknowledge that at a retreat looking at racism, our brothers and sisters of color were very underrepresented, with only one female of color.

We can easily admit, as people who are predominantly of German heritage, middle class, and Protestant, we come from a very privileged subset of the world. What is very hard to admit is that as members of that privileged group, we are oppressing other groups in order to have our privileges.

Two videos, a documentary on the Los Angeles riots and a "Prime Time" special were presented to examine issues of racism, the effects of injustice towards blacks in the US, and the depth of emotion and anger over racial injustice. We discussed our isolation from multiculturalism, our unawareness of events that are not WASP, and how that lack of education can further widen the gap between racial groups. We spent time discussing how to raise our own personal awareness of race, ethnicities, and prejudice.

We took away from the weekend the hope of reconciliation found in Ephesians 2:14-19.
—Beth Miller

Spring Mount marks 200 years of service

Spring Mount Church of the Brethren, Warriors Mark, Pa., celebrates its 200th anniversary this year.

An "Old-Timers Day" is planned for May 21 with Brethren heritage displays. Aug. 13 is a family picnic following the church service. Special events with guest speakers are planned for Oct. 7 and 8.

Guests and words of greeting are welcome. For information call 814-632-5051 or 814-632-8620.

Indiana men take on the world

Camp Alexander Mack hosted the third annual Northern Indiana District Men's retreat Feb. 5 and 6. About 40 men attended the retreat, which carried the theme, "A Man and His World."

Retreat attendees looked at the dynamics of relationships and explored the Christian responses to a world divided by condition, creed, and color. Leaders were David Radcliff, director of Brethren Witness, and Lee Krähenbühl, co-pastor of Skyridge Church of the Brethren, Kalamazoo, Mich.

West Goshen honored as Centennial Church

The West Goshen Church of the Brethren, Goshen, Ind., was honored as the Centennial Church for 1999 by the Elkhart County Agricultural Society. The West Goshen congregation was established in 1830 by the families of Elder Daniel Cripe, Jacob Cripe, Clint Stouder, and John Pippinger, who came to the area from Montgomery County, Ohio.

Meetings were held in homes until 1859, when a small wooden church was built at the present location. This was replaced in 1886 by the present building.

West Goshen is the "mother church" for some 30 other Brethren congregations in northern Indiana and lower Michigan.

After 65 years Bush retires from ministry

Clyde Bush, of Curryville, Pa., has retired after 65 years in the active ministry. He was called to the ministry at the age of 18 by the Curryville Church of the Brethren and began his ministry at the Riddlesburg church. Other Church of the Brethren congregations he served include Stonerstown, Bellwood, James Creek, Beech Run, Waterside, Black Valley, and Pleasant Union.

During his ministry Bush preached 3,268 sermons, conducted 364 prayer meetings, baptized 157 (including 50 on one day assisted by two other pastors), and officiated at 110 weddings and 112 funerals.

Students study civil rights on tour of South

Manchester College professor Ken Brown and three students spent their January session in the South, visiting cities and sites associated with the civil rights movement.

The students in the peace studies program—Erica Sweitzer, Eric Christiansen, and Angela Florence—were taking a course titled, "Current Issues in Peace and Justice: How the Civil Rights Movement has Changed the South."

The group went to the University of Mississippi, the one-time segregationist school that became a hotbed of civil rights activity in the 1960s. They visited the Lorraine Motel, site of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They were in Atlanta, Ga., for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. In keeping with the words of Coretta Scott King— "It's not a day off, it's a day on"— they spent the day volunteering at an inner-city school and an AIDS shelter.

After serious accident, she shares her faith

Last June Flora Williams, professor of family and consumer economics at Purdue University and pianist at Lafayette (Ind.) Church of the Brethren, was in Mexico on a tourist van that crashed. Her injuries required the amputation of her right lower arm and hand.

A local newspaper article highlighted the positive attitude that brought Flora through her recovery. "Instead of being depressed, I reflect on the fact that I am blessed," she says. As one friend put it, she focused on the internal and the eternal, instead of the external.

She has returned to classroom teaching, and is even playing the piano and organ again. Rather than hide her prosthesis, she adorns it with nail polish and splashy rings. "The Lord did not promise life would be easy," Flora says, "but he did promise to go with us every step of the way."

Eshbach certified as fund raising executive

Theresa C. Eshbach

Theresa C. Eshbach, of Thomasville, Pa., director of institutional advancement for Bethany Theological Seminary, was awarded the professional designation of Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) by the CFRE certification board. Those certified have met professional standards and have agreed to uphold a code of ethics and the Donor Bill of Rights. Also, candidates must pass a written examination.

Marjorie and Conrad Burton.

Remembered

D. **Conrad Burton,** 77, of Long Beach, Calif., died March 31, 1999. He was pastor of the Panorama City, Calif. congregation for 17 years. Later he left the pastoral ministry to develop a new mission—the development, construction, and management of non-profit housing for the low-income elderly.

In the 1960s, Burton ministered to despondent street kids of Los Angeles. "He would go down to the Sunset Strip and just talk and listen to the kids," said his wife, Marjorie. "He would help get them back on their feet, sometimes reuniting them with their families."

Martha Wenger Bachman, 77, of Lebanon, Pa., died July 11. She served in Brethren Volunteer Service, and with Civilian Public Service in Castañer, Puerto Rico. She was a member of Brethren Peace Fellowship and was known for her dedication to the cause of peace.

"In Touch" features news of congregations, districts, and individuals. Send story ideas and photos to "In Touch," MESSENGER, *1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.*

News

Walt Wiltschek

Guillermo Encarnación, *coordinator of theological training in the Dominican Republic; Jerry Crouse, mission co-coordinator in the Dominican Republic; Allen Hansell, director of ministry for the Church of the Brethren General Board; and Becky Baile Crouse, mission co-coordinator, join in laying on hands as 10 pastors are ordained in the first Church of the Brethren ordination service in the Dominican Republic.*

Brethren Volunteer Service Orientation Unit 237 *trained at Camp Ithiel, Gotha, Fla., Jan. 23 to Feb. 11. The work assignments for the volunteers are listed next to their names. Front row: Kerry Labuschagne (Camp Brethren Woods, Keezletown, Va.), Sue Grubb (staff); second row: Matt Stauffer (staff), Andy Kloos (San Antonio Catholic Worker House, Tex.); Christy Bischoff (Quaker Cottage, Belfast, Northern Ireland); third row: Lynn Stoltzfus (Christian Peacemaker Teams, Chiapas, Mexico); Tobias Baier (National Farm Worker Ministries, Florida/North Carolina), Ali Durbin (Guatemala Accompaniment Project, Guatemala City); Back row: Barrett Chaix (International Peace Bureau, Geneva, Switzerland); Aimee Edmark (Church of the Brethren Youth Services, Leola, Pa.); Tracy Stoddart (staff); Veli Turhan (Tri-City Homeless Coalition, Fremont, Calif.).*

Dominican Brethren celebrate theology graduation

Brethren in the Dominican Republic use a traditional greeting when saying hello or farewell: "Dios le bendiga" — God bless you.

February proved to be a month especially filled with God's blessings for the Dominican Brethren and for their counterparts in the United States. Feb. 12 marked graduation day for 17 students who became the first in the nation to complete a five-year Church of the Brethren theological training program. A week later, the first Brethren ordinations in the Dominican Republic took place at the ninth annual assembly of congregations there.

"This is a very sacred and historic moment in the international Church of the Brethren, and a special joy in the Dominican Republic," said General Board Director of Ministry Allen Hansell, who conducted the services among the wooden benches of an outdoor pavilion.

In addition to the 10 pastors who were ordained, 7 more people were licensed during the Saturday evening service. The group of 17 included old and young, men and women — all of them exhibiting a passion for Jesus Christ and the church. Each minister came to the front surrounded by members of his or her congregation to show support and community.

About 30 US Brethren were present for the historic ceremonies, joining more than 150 Dominicans. In addition to Hansell, the US representatives included executive director Judy Mills Reimer and Global Mission Partnerships director Merv Keeney of the General Board, Jim Myer of Brethren Revival Fellowship,

Walt Wiltschek

Pastor Sebastian Reyes *of the Agua Viva congregation celebrates his ordination.*

and a large workcamp group from Pennsylvania.

The entire ceremony painted a portrait of two cultures woven together, with Hansell delivering the ceremony and vows in English, and Guillermo Encarnación, coordinator of theological training in the Dominican Republic, translating them into the native Spanish. All ministry materials, such as certificates and identification cards, were also translated into Spanish for the occasion.

"I am happy and thrilled," said newly ordained Angelica Beriguete, pastor of the Fuente de Vida congregation, through a translator. "For anyone who is ready and feels called by God, this is a good direction. This is an exciting time for the church."

As many as 40 Dominicans are expected to enroll in the theological training program this year. Some of those are continuing students, but many are new. Nineteen congregations or preaching points are now functioning in the country with the guidance of Church of the Brethren mission coordinators Jerry and Becky Crouse, who live in Santo Domingo. The Crouses received a quick and emphatic round of applause for their work after Jerry delivered their report at the assembly.

Other major items at the assembly included approval of the 1999 treasurer's report and 2000 budget, elections for the coming year, reports from each congregation, and amendments to their conference's constitution.

Worship provided the central heartbeat of the weekend, however, with energetic and abundant music, fervent prayers, scripture readings, and moving messages — including addresses by Encarnación Saturday night and Reimer on Sunday, following communion.

As people went their separate ways after the closing worship, the meaningful words came again: "Dios le bendiga." —Walt Wiltschek

General Board programs finish fiscal year in black

Church of the Brethren General Board treasurer Judy E. Keyser used "solid" and "stable" as the two words to describe the organization's financial status entering 2000.

"General programs," those which are not self-funded, showed a total income over expense of $136,070 according to pre-audit reports. That strong showing came even after several adjustments, such as a one-time transfer to Brethren Press and a transfer to fund annuity payments.

For self-funding units, all but one finished in the black. The New Windsor (Md.) Conference Center showed the largest turnaround, posting a deficit in 1998 but showing a $5,450 net income over expense in 1999. Similar good news came from Brethren Press ($11,390), and from Emergency Response/Service Ministries ($35,110). Messenger showed a net loss of $25,380 for the year.

Urban Peace Tour visits churches of Los Angeles

During the week of Feb. 8-13 participants in Urban Peace Tour 2000 traveled to Church of the Brethren congregations throughout the Los Angeles area. They worshiped together, celebrating their unique cultures and backgrounds, but united under a common identity as Christians and members of the Church of the Brethren.

The tour gathered participants from Brethren congregations across the country including: Harrisburg (Pa.) First—Iglesia del Discipulado, Altoona (Pa.) 28th Street, Germantown (Philadelphia, Pa.), and Phoenix (Ariz.) First. Local area participants from Imperial Heights, Valley View Whittier, and Bella Vista congregations further strengthened the tour.

Greg Laszakovits

Orlando Antonio Jiménez, *a member of Bella Vista Church of the Brethren, Los Angeles, on the Urban Peace Tour.*

"I was continually amazed by the worshipful and energetic spirit in which people gave themselves to the tour—heart and soul," said tour coordinator Greg Laszakovits, who is finishing a year doing anti-racism education through the General Board's Brethren Witness office.

Greg Laszakovits

Ernie Sewell, *of Germantown Church of the Brethren, on the Urban Peace Tour.*

Each night's worship celebration included music, testimonies, powerful preaching, and prayers for personal, interracial, and world peace.

"We could really feel the Holy Spirit move in those churches," said Nate Olivencia of Harrisburg, Pa. "It was powerful!"

One of the highlights of the tour was the final worship service at Central Evangelical Korean Church of the Brethren. The message was delivered in Spanish by Pastor Guillermo Olivencia of Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren, Iglesia del Discipulado, then translated to English, then to Korean.

"This is what the Kingdom of God will look like—look at the diversity!" rejoiced one church member.

Other stops on the tour included Principe de Paz, Imperial Heights, Pomona Fellowship, and Bella Vista/Bittersweet Ministries.

Annual Conference announces ballot

Paul Grout (Putney, Vt.), Joan Hershey (Mount Joy, Pa.), Marianne Rhoades Pittman (Blacksburg, Va.), and David L. Rogers (North Manchester, Ind.) are the candidates for moderator-elect on this year's Annual Conference Standing Committee ballot.

Standing Committee will prepare the ballot that delegates will vote on by cutting the list of nominees for that and numerous other positions in half when it meets in July prior to Annual Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

Other positions on the ballot this year are a member of the Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee; General Board members from three districts— Illinois and Wisconsin, Northern Ohio, and Southeastern—plus an at-large representative; one member each of the boards of On Earth Peace Assembly, Brethren Benefit Trust, and Association of Brethren Caregivers; two members of the Bethany Theological Seminary board, one representing the laity and one representing the ministry; a member of the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee representing the laity; a member of the Committee on Interchurch Relations; and male and female members of the Review and Evaluation Committee.

CAIR team helps following Alaska Airlines crash

The Crisis in Aviation Incident Response program, administered by the Church of the Brethren General Board's Emergency Response/Service Ministries, was called upon again after the crash of Alaska Airlines flight 261 in the Pacific Ocean. Sharon Gilbert of the La Verne (Calif.) Church of the Brethren helped to administer that effort.

Other Brethren involved in the ecumenical team included Sheryl Faus (Chiques church, Manheim, Pa.), Judy Gump (Prince of Peace church, Denver, Colo.), John Kinsel (Beavercreek, Ohio, church), and Dena Gilbert (La Verne).

The team's work so impressed Alaska Airlines that a CAIR team was requested to work during a memorial service in Seattle for families of airline employees involved in the crash. Gilbert again co-administered that project, which included Brethren Patricia Ronk of the Oak Grove church (Roanoke, Va.) and Noel Gilbert of La Verne.

They cared for 58 infants and children during the services at the Seattle Convention Center.

Older Adult Conference speakers announced

The Association of Brethren Caregivers has announced the lineup of speakers for this year's National Older Adult Conference, to be held Sept. 11-15 in Lake Junaluska, N.C.

Retired pastor Jimmy Ross of Waynesboro, Va., will provide the message for the Monday night opening celebration, with the title "More than Leaves and Shade."

Other speakers include Robert A. Raines, former director of the Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center in Bangor, Pa.; McPherson (Kan.) College president emeritus Paul Hoffman; Marva J. Dawn of Christians Equipped for Ministry, Vancouver, Wash.; and retired pastor and former Annual Conference moderator Dean M. Miller.

Robert Neff, president emeritus of Juniata College (Huntingdon, Pa.) and former general secretary of the Church of the Brethren General Board, will lead three days of morning Bible study based on the Psalms.

Other presentations include a musical, "Heavenly Days," which will be presented by members of the North Manchester (Ind.) Shepherd center, and the biblical comedy of Ted Swartz and Lee Eshleman, better known simply as "Ted and Lee," in "The Creation Chronicles."

Personnel changes

Mark Sloan departed Feb. 1 for Nairobi, Kenya, to begin serving as special assistant to Haruun Ruun, executive director of the New Sudan Council of Churches. Sloan joined Ruun and Merlyn Kettering as the third member of the Church of the Brethren General Board's Global Mission Partnerships team serving with the NSCC. Sloan, from Stone Church of the Brethren in Huntingdon, Pa., completed graduate studies in theology and business administration in December.

Linda McCauliff has resigned as a Congregational Life Team member for Area 1 (Northeast) effective Feb. 25. McCauliff began serving with the General Board in January 1998 and has worked with the other team members in developing a more direct General Board approach to congregations under the umbrella of Congregational Life Ministries. McCauliff is continuing in her half-time associate district executive position with Western Pennsylvania District.

Grants help after hurricane and China earthquakes

The second Emergency Disaster Fund grant of 2000 provided $10,000 to support disaster recovery efforts through Church World Service following two Jan. 14 earthquakes in China.

The quakes caused heavy destruction of homes and public buildings, with more than 156,000 rendered homeless out of a population of 200,000 in the area.

The year's third allocation from the fund went to provide $6,000 to the Falfurrias Church of the Brethren to assist with damage caused by Hurricane Bret to the church, its parsonage, and the surrounding community in August 1999.

Fourth Song & Story Fest set for July in Iowa

The Great Plains Song and Story Fest will be held the week before Annual Conference, July 9-15, at Camp Pine Lake near Eldora, Iowa. This unique family camp, offered for a fourth straight year, features the following Brethren leaders: Debbie Eisenbise, Dena Pence Frantz, Joseph Helfrich, Rocci Hildum, Jonathan Hunter, Lee Krähenbühl, Jim Lehman, Peg Lehman, Mike Stern, and others.

Call 515-939-5334 or e-mail camppinelake @earthlink.net for more information.

Juniata College community says prayers for peace

People are gathering and saying prayers for world peace at dawn each morning this year in the Elizabeth Evans Baker Peace Chapel of Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pa.

The prayer services consist of the ringing of a bell, the reading of an interfaith prayer, a time of silence, and the reading of a prayer from the faith tradition of the person overseeing that service.

The 2000 Prayers effort is being organized by the Baker Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies and the Campus Ministry Board of the college, along with several area churches. Volunteers take turns leading a week of the prayers.

The prayer services "will be a daily opportunity for the community to remember those who suffer from war and injustice and to ask for the strength and wisdom to work for a more peaceful world," said Andy Murray, director of the Baker Institute.

New Year's weekend event caps year-long J2K project

The "J2K: New Hope, New Day" project will conclude with a major theological gathering in Cincinnati over New Year's weekend. Titled "Speaking of Jesus . . .," the event will invite Brethren from across the denomination and from a variety of faith perspectives to share about their faith in Jesus and the impact of Jesus on the church and society.

Sessions are being designed to be highly participatory in nature. Jointly sponsored by Bethany Theological Seminary and the Church of the Brethren General Board, the conference will be the first such national gathering of its kind in nearly 20 years.

The purpose of the event is to "explore our faith and build community at a decisive time in the life of our church and in human history," according to the planning team. The team consists of Sharon Nearhoof, Richard Kyerematen, Harriet Finney, Rick Gardner, and David Radcliff.

Planners anticipate attendance by congregational leaders, seminary students and faculty, and district and denominational staff. Registration will be limited to the first 250 applicants. Special consideration will be given to assisting people who live west of the Mississippi to attend. Contact the J2K project office at 800-323-8039 for more information.

Space remains in some summer workcamps

Many of the 22 summer workcamps offered by the General Board's Youth/Young Adult office have begun to fill up, but time remains to register for others.

Seven workcamps were full by early March: Indianapolis, Ind., New Windsor, Md., Crossnore, N.C., Richmond, Va., Dominican Republic (BRF); Lend-a-Hand, Ky.; and Lake Geneva, Wis.

Workcamps in Denver, Colo.; the second camp in Jamaica; Pine Ridge, S.D., and Puerto Rico were nearly full.

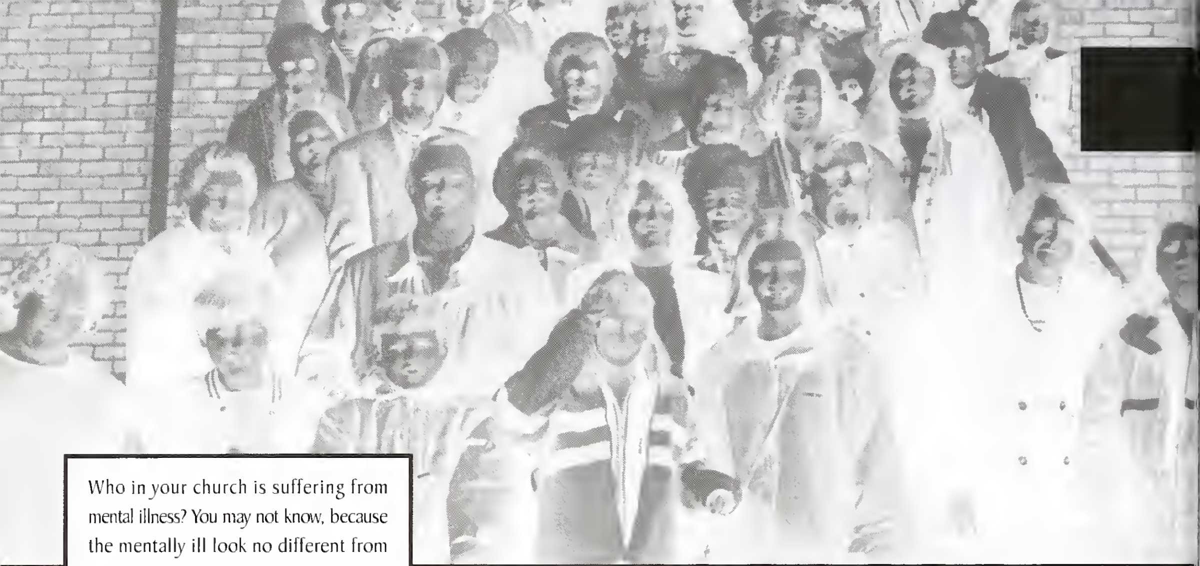
Those with the most space still remaining were: Young Adult Dominican Republic; Intergenerational, Harrisburg, Pa.; Americus, Ga.; Orlando, Fla.; Trees for Life in Wichita, Kan.; Washington, D.C.; Tijuana, Mexico; and Gould Farm, Mass. For more workcamp information, call the Youth/Young Adult office at 1-800-323-8039.

Western US youth will hold conference at La Verne

The Western Regional Youth Conference, held only once every four years, will take place July 6-10 at the University of La Verne (Calif.).

The event draws youth and advisors from the Idaho, Pacific Southwest, and Oregon/Washington districts and features worship, workshops, music, recreation, and other activities.

For more information, contact Dena Gilbert in the Pacific Southwest District Office at 909-593-2254 or at gogilbert@juno.com, or Don Flora at the University of La Verne at 909-593-3511, x4694 or at florad@ulv.edu.



Who in your church is suffering from mental illness? You may not know, because the mentally ill look no different from anyone else. But nationwide, 1 in 10 persons is afflicted by mental illness seriously enough to require treatment. One person in the US commits suicide every 30 minutes. Out of 100 adults between the ages of 17 and 74, some 15 will suffer from serious depression from time to time. Pictured is First Church of the Brethren, Springfield, Ill., a congregation that has cared for members with mental illness.

What churches can do for the depressed

A psychiatrist on the healing combination of medicine, love, and understanding

BY G. MARTIN KEENEY

Wes Albin of Harrisburg, Pa., tragically lost his life to depression last August [see article next page]. It is our hope that these words could be one component of the grieving process for his family, church, and the denomination: trying to build some education, understanding, and growth into the impossible task of "figuring out" the loss of Wes.

He was an admired acquaintance of mine, so I have been shaken by his loss. Being a psychiatrist is no protection. The concomitant sadness, contemplation, prayer, and conversations with others have led to some reflections on what the church can offer to community members suffering with depression.

A church community offers much to alleviate all kinds of suffering. Empathy, genuine hope, laying on hands, anointing, availability, and prayer are important to those with depression. It is also important that those closest to the depressed receive some of the same, since it is draining to be in their position.

Frequently it is difficult to offer this kind of help because of lack of understanding of "emotional problems," or discomfort with them. Stigma, however, becomes less formidable in a more knowledgeable community where words like *suicide* and *psychiatrist* can be said without choking. Churches can develop a foundation for this by offering Christian education about mental illness.

Looking at depression from an illness or "biology" perspective can help, too. Although loss, stress, or spiritual issues are usually related to depression, there is a disease component as well. Indeed, some are more prone to this illness because of their genes, in the same way one might be at risk for diabetes or heart attacks because it runs in the family. This is why a combination of talking therapy and biological therapy (medication) is usually the best treatment. More information about the disease and its treatments is available from treatment centers (hospitals and professional offices) and local chapters of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

The important message that churches can help deliver is that most depression is diagnosable and treatable. Such knowledge is a powerful tool since it helps fuel honest encouragement and open support.

Many who are eager to help are sti-

(continued on p. 12)

Wes Albin—A walking partner

BY HELEN S. HOLLINGER

Just before the CROP Walks started this past October in Harrisburg and York, Pa., Church World Service executive Roger Clark made a request: "As you take your steps this day to alleviate hunger, we ask that you walk in memory of Wesley Albin."

Until his sudden death on Aug. 25, Wesley Paul Albin, 59, had served as Pennsylvania regional director of CWS/CROP for 24 years. As Wes' widow, Joyce, cut the ribbon for the Harrisburg walk to begin, Clark said, "As you participate in today's CROP Walk, know that Wesley Albin lives on in our steps. Even as we grieve deeply for our loss, we give thanks for the life and influence of this dear man."

Recently Wes suffered from severe depression and was undergoing medical treatment and therapy. His family, friends, and colleagues had rallied around him with love and support, along with his pastors, Nancy and Irvin Heishman, of the Harrisburg (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren. Sadly, however, even as Wes continued to work and to share his gifted life with others, he lost his battle with clinical depression and took his own life.

"Ironically, his life commitments and work with Church World Service have saved literally thousands of lives and inspired countless others to deeper discipleship," said his co-pastor, Irvin Heishman. "There is no doubt but that Wes left the world a better place."

Tiann Scoggins

Wes Albin *speaking to a group in York Pa., on August 24, 1999. It was the day before he died.*

He took on a servant role early in his life. Born in Ottumwa, Iowa, he was the son of Brethren pastor Charles Albin and Ica Albin. Upon graduating from McPherson College, where he was student body president, he entered Brethren Volunteer Service in 1962, serving with Church World Service in South Korea as a field representative. He worked to provide food, clothing, and self-help equipment to some 800 projects, including orphanages, hospitals, and land reclamation projects. This experience moved Wes to dedicate his life to working to alleviate hunger throughout the world.

He worked for CWS/CROP in Iowa, Wisconsin, and the Mid-Atlantic Region before opening a regional office in Camp Hill, Pa. In citing Wes' record 37-year tenure of service to Church World Service—the longest of any CWS employee, as well as any Church of the Brethren member—Annual Conference Moderator Emily Mumma expressed gratitude on behalf of the church at large for his many years of ministry.

Over the last 25 years, Wes was an active member of the Harrisburg First congregation, serving as church board chair, moderator, Sunday school teacher, youth adviser, and member of numerous congregational and Atlantic Northeast District committees.

He was a dedicated family man, survived by Joyce, his wife of nearly 30 years, daughters Elizabeth, a teacher in Kinman, Ariz., and Bridget, a student at Elizabethtown College, and son Paul, a high school junior. Also surviving are sisters Kathleen Waterman, Lavonne Krushwitz, and brother Robert, all of Iowa. He enjoyed the outdoors, camping, and of course, walking. He was featured in the December 1997 MESSENGER for walking 50 miles for CROP in Juniata County, Pa.

As family, colleagues, and friends wrestle with the tragic loss of Wes, some recalled his gifts: "When you talked with Wes, he was tuned in only to you. . . ." "His kind wit hurt no one and relaxed many a tedious moment." "He lived the gospel and quietly inspired others to do so."

Joyce Albin openly talks of her husband's struggle with depression, hoping that the unjustified stigma surrounding this tragic illness will give way to better understanding, empathy, and help for its victims. Above all, she hopes that "Wes will be remembered for the kindness, humor, and compassion he showed to all people."

The longest route in the recent Harrisburg, Pa., CROP Walk was fittingly designated as the "Albin route." Those who walked this 10-mile route no doubt had more time to remember Wes Albin's compassionate concern for the hungry. Indeed, all walkers could well have thought of Wes Albin as an immortal walking partner in the fight against world hunger.

Helen Stutzman Hollinger is a member of First Church of the Brethren, Harrisburg, Pa.

(continued from p. 10)

fled by not knowing the right thing to say or do. Specific recommendations are difficult to make, since the "right thing" grows out of the feelings, content, and company of the moment. But it can be liberating to remember that any one statement is not going to make or break recovery from the illness.

Empathy and loving one's neighbor are good guiding principles. These are particularly important in assisting with grieving. "Telling the story" of loss is often an important part of the recovery from depression and for survivors of those who have taken their lives. However, comments about "cheering up," "looking on the bright side," or attempts to minimize the problem, are of less value, even irritating.

It is important not to expect fast results and showers of gratitude for your kind words, listening, and prayer. That is not "gonna fix 'em," and if the friend is frustrated with lack of progress and quits visiting, it can solidify the depressed person's hopelessness. Rather, since even an uncomplicated depression lasts weeks to months, supporters need to pace themselves for the long haul.

It is also important to remember that depression is, unfortunately, a potentially lethal illness. A tragic end does *not* denote shortcomings in friends, family, or the community.

Asking about suicide, though, is important. Some worry about offending by asking, but not doing so may preclude opportunity for a lifesaving intervention (like hospitalization, or getting in touch with the involved professionals). Rarely is anyone put off by the discussion. It may truly be a relief to be able to acknowledge suicidal

How churches can raise the veil on mental illness

BY ROBERT BLAKE

An international survey indicates that mental illness is on the rise throughout the world. The *Congressional Record* estimates that one-third of all Americans will suffer from a mental illness at some point in their lives. The American Psychiatric Association found that nearly 50 percent of the people between the ages of 15 and 54 have experienced a psychiatric illness during their lifetime. The National Institute of Mental Health has determined that depression, the most common psychiatric illness, affects between 8 million and 20 million Americans at any given time.

While these numbers are staggering, the stigma involved with mental illness is devastating. The National Institute of Mental Health reported that when people were asked to list disabilities from the least offensive to the most offensive, mental illness was rated lowest, or most offensive. Research has shown that ex-convicts are held in higher regard than are people who have experienced mental illness. In our society there is a veil that hides the truth about mental illness.

Because of the stigma involved, relatively few people actually receive adequate care and treatment for their illness. Even fewer are willing to divulge that they are struggling, hurting, and in need of care and understanding.

Within the Church of the Brethren, a new program from the Association of Brethren Caregivers can help. Voice Ministry's "Creating a Safe Place" program encourages congregations to be places where people are valued for who they are. As such, congregations have both an opportunity and a duty to reach out to people who are suffering with mental illnesses and invite them to participate fully in the life of the community.

Churches can respond in several ways. Educational endeavors can help church members become accurately informed about mental illness. Voice Ministry offers resources to groups within the church as they work to alleviate the stigma attached to mental illness. Parishioners can reach out, accept, and support persons with mental disorders as well as their family members. As this is done, people who have suffered the effects of the stigma of mental illness will begin to feel empowered and affirmed.

The great commandment calls us to love our God and our neighbors. Jesus invited us to give care to him by meeting the needs of those in his family. It is appropriate for us to reach out to people who suffer with a mental illness and are in need of care. We have an obligation to do this from a knowledgeable position and with care and understanding.

There is a veil that hides the truth about mental illness. We have an opportunity to help raise that veil and the responsibility to help destroy the stigma that surrounds those who suffer with mental illness.

Robert Blake is program field staff for the Association of Brethren Caregivers.

thoughts to another person.

Sharing the deep pain of depression with the afflicted is difficult, frightening, and agonizing, but it can broaden one's view of the scope of human experience. The exact healing words are usually elusive. But an understanding individual and community that can support people living with depression is a powerful healing force.

The community can also be helpful by not being harmful. Spiritual healing and mental health treatment must work together. Recoveries have been sabotaged from both directions by poor communication and/or mistrust, which has been present for decades. The mental health community needs to be more open to the benefits of religion and spirituality in healing.

The church needs to be open as well. Many who suffer have received the messages that they "don't need that medicine," or should "stay away from that anti-religious psychotherapy," or should "get right with God," or they "must be being punished for something." These comments, whether overtly or covertly delivered, can lead to doubts about treatment or to quitting treatment altogether, resulting in further intensifying suffering and slowing recovery. Active spiritual lives and mental health treatment are *not* exclusive of each other. Individuals and communities supporting depressed loved ones must allow for their coexistence, and should work toward their synergism. My hope is that we begin to allow more healthy discourse between spiritual and medical/psychological communities.

The spiritual world of the church also offers faith in God as a unique "product." The "unforgivableness" of the depressive mindset can be tempered by grace and salvation. It is not a simple matter, though, since some profoundly depressed people are unable to fathom that salvation can apply to them. Consistent, compassionate reminders of the "Good News" are useful for some over time.

This can even be essential for some whose depression has a large guilt component. Some think their illness is an ongoing punishment for past mistakes. The past can sometimes be placed into a tolerable context by means of grace. In short, God's grace does apply to all, and can be fostered in the afflicted by a caring faith community.

Churches can offer education, comfort, and enhancement of recovery for those profoundly smothered by this illness, without giving up anything of their fundamental nature, a window to grace and truth. I hope we do honor to Wes Albin and his family in doing so.

G. Martin Keeney, M.D., is a psychiatrist and a member of Stone Church of the Brethren, Huntingdon, Pa.

The slightly exaggerated adventures of a BVS hero*

Somewhere in Guatemala...
Daddy! The mountain is eroding! Our crops are failing and our village will soon be washed away.
I know who we can call!
Elgin, Illinois. Director of BVS Dan McFadden's Office...
Hello? Yes... yes... uh-huh... I'll send my best volunteer!
Super Barb, I've got a job for you!
Barb helps the village plant appropriately indigenous trees that provide food and erosion control.
Yeah! Another BVSer saves the day!

Illustration by Daniel Radcliff

*Disclaimer: The scene depicted is purely fictional. Poetic and artistic license has been used to elevate BVS to superhero status. Calls for help are customarily received from agencies rather than local villagers. BVS volunteers are generally not required to wear spandex and capes, nor physically fly through the air. Transportation to and from projects is provided. On assignment, BVS volunteers will work with, teach and learn from local people. BVS volunteers often report to have gained more from their experience than they felt they gave.

Summer unit: June 11 - July 1, 2000
Held at New Windsor, Maryland

Fall unit: September 17 - October 7, 2000
Held at Camp LaVerne, California

BVS

Be Someone's Hero

Brethren Volunteer Service 800-323-8039
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120

A Medical Doctor with a Mission

A ministry of healing and witness among Haitian refugees.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
REBECCA BAILE CROUSE

Passion and compassion. Those are the two words that best describe the faith and the work of Dr. Hilcias Ricardo, who completed her first year of medical work in Sabana Grande de Boya with some of the poorest of the poor in the Dominican Republic. Dr. Ricardo's work is being supported by the Elizabethtown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren and other individuals and congregations through the Global Mission Partnerships Office of the Church of the Brethren General Board.

Ricardo, 30, is the oldest of six children and recalls growing up knowing poverty. "I remember times when we did not have shoes," she says. Her father, Hipolito Ricardo Caliz, was a miner and earned about 125 pesos a month (about $8.50) when she was a child. He would often get to come home only once a month to be with the family in Santo Domingo. Her mother, Ysidora Guzman Vivda de Ricardo, sewed clothing on her treadle sewing machine to supplement the family's income. Mrs. Ricardo said, "I sometimes would have to rip a zipper out of some clothing and sell it for 25 centavos (a few pennies) in order to buy some bread and hot chocolate for the children's breakfast."

Yet hers was a Christian home and Ricardo developed a passion for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. "We were living by faith," Ricardo recalled.

Three times a week they would walk about a mile to worship in the church where both her parents worked as ordained Assemblies of God pastors. "We had a neighbor who was an evangelist in our church and had a loudspeaker and we would walk through our neighborhood proclaiming Christ with him," Ricardo said. "I remember we six children playing the tambourines and singing as we walked through the streets."

Ricardo's love for sharing Christ includes leading a weekly Bible study for children in one room of the family's small home. Her mother led this time of Bible study for 20 years. For the past 10 years, every Saturday, Ricardo and her other siblings open their home to about 40 children from the neighborhood who come to sing and learn more about the Bible. Two

Dr. Ricardo *makes a house call on a family to insure their use of filtered water at the Las Charcas sugar cane worker community.*

of those children have gone on to become pastors.

Because of their difficult economic situation, the family sought scholarship assistance through the nonprofit organization Compassion International for Hilcias and two of her sisters, Anna Lidia and Ruth Esther, to attend a local Christian high school. She finished her high school education in 1986 and graduated from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo with a degree in medicine in 1996. Her sister Anna Lidia went on to become a medical doctor, and her sister Ruth became a lawyer.

It was through her two-year residency work in the rural areas of Barahona that Ricardo first came in contact with the Dominican Church of the Brethren through the Fondo Negro congregation. She began attending the Peniel Church of the Brethren in Santo Domingo in 1998 and became a charter member of the church Jan. 9, 2000. She is currently serving on the Peniel leadership team.

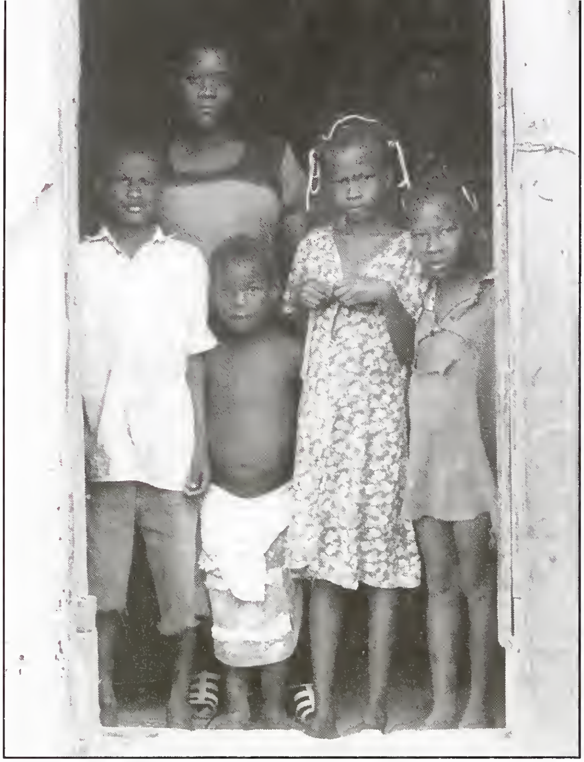
When Ricardo finished her two-year residency in 1998, she was contemplating where she would begin work when an opportunity became available through COTEDO (Commission for Dominican Ecumenical Work), a Christian nonprofit organization working in the bateyes (sugar cane worker communities) near Sabana Grande de Boya, about two hours north of Santo Domingo. COTEDO, partnering with the Church of the Brethren and several other agencies, started a medical project in the bateyes to improve the health conditions of the poor, many of whom are of Haitian descent.

"I remembered how it was to be poor and I wanted to do something to help the poor," Ricardo said. "That's why I came to Sabana Grande de Boya to work with cane workers."

In March 1999, Ricardo moved from Santo Domingo to Sabana Grande, living in a small rented room of a local family. She often returns by public bus to Santo Domingo on weekends to visit her family.

Ricardo's weekly schedule includes visiting seven different communities located between 5 and 10 miles from Sabana Grande. The roads are very poor and sometimes when the pickup is not functioning, Ricardo rides a motorcycle to get out to see her patients. One other outlying community can be reached only by riding horses or burros. Ricardo sees between 35 and 40 patients each day along with another physician, Erida Castro, who began working with her last August.

The doctors use either the school building, a church, or a home as their office, depending on the community. Health promoters are local volunteers who know the residents and assist the doctors in identifying people who need medical attention. The doctors often go door to door visiting in homes to encourage the use of filters for clean water, or to teach proper hygiene to the families. The doctors often are available simply to listen to the problems of the local residents as they



Dr. Ricardo *stands inside the door of a home with some children in Las Charcas bateye, where she visits regularly and provides education, supervision, and consultation to improve health conditions in the community.*

offer supervision, education, and consultation in these communities. Since some of the patients of Haitian descent do not speak Spanish, a translator helps the doctors communicate in the bateyes.

The doctors take some medication with them for headaches, colds, and fever, but often they write out prescriptions which a member of the family or the local health promoter will bring to the COTEDO office in Sabana Grande de Boya, which houses the pharmacy for the project. The medications for the pharmacy were donated by the Interchurch Medical Assistance (IMA) office located in New Windsor, Md. IMA is supported by contributions from a number of denominations, including the Church of the Brethren through the Emergency Disaster Fund.

Diarrhea, high blood pressure, and depression are also illnesses the doctors treat often. They see pregnant women weekly and encourage the use of vitamins, which they provide as soon as the women learn they are expecting.

Because of the privatization of the sugar cane industry, many of the residents in the bateyes have been without work for more than one year. "The government has forgotten them. But COTEDO and the Church of the Brethren are working together to give them some hope," Ricardo said. "God is using us to help the poor with medicine, and support them and give them encouragement." Some of the workers will be hired by the private company in their area and begin work this spring earning between 80 and 150 pesos (between $5 and $10) per day.

Ricardo said that this is the first time many of the bateye residents have had consistent medical care. Visiting representatives from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), also a funding partner for the project, gave the program high marks for its overall effectiveness in improving the health of the people.

Ricardo takes advantage of every opportunity she can to share her faith in Jesus Christ. She recently visited a man living in the Las Charcas bateye who has cancer in one leg. Ricardo first inquired about how the man was feeling. After checking on his physical needs and giving him some orange juice and crackers, Ricardo asked, "And how is your faith in God? Is it staying strong?"

"Yes," the man replied.

(continued on p. 18)

Dr. Hilcias Ricardo, *medical missionary supported by the Church of the Brethren, stands near a sugar cane field through which she passes daily on her visits to the sugar cane worker communities surrounding the town of Sabana Grande de Boya in the Dominican Republic.*

The life of Haitians in the Dominican Republic

BY AMY RHOADES

You can see them in the streets, vending their wares. You can find them working long hours in manual construction or in the endless fields of sugar cane. These tireless workers have journeyed from their homeland of Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, to the Dominican Republic, which shares the same island, in hopes of creating a better life.

Even though opportunities are greater in the Dominican Republic than in Haiti, most Haitian sugar cane worker communities, called bateyes, lack basic human necessities. A July 6, 1999, report in Santo Domingo's daily newspaper *Listen Diario* revealed these statistics about the bateyes. There are 200,000 residents (2 percent of the Dominican population), or about 43,154 families, residing in 220 bateyes.

Fifty percent of the families live in barracks or duplex-style one-room homes. Two-thirds of the homes have no form of latrines, resulting in most people using the sugar cane fields as restrooms. In 32 percent of the bateyes there is no drinkable water and in the remaining 68 percent the present water filtration systems have missing or malfunctioning parts. One-third of the bateyes offer no schooling for children and a third of the population over age 10 cannot read or write. Fifty percent of the bateyes have no electricity.

O USAID
AMIENTOCOTEDO

Dr. Ricardo *checks Israel Castro, a patient from Las Cabilma, a community outside of Sabana Grande de Boya that can be reached only by horseback.*

Sixteen percent of residents receive no type of medical assistance and 50 percent rely on a local volunteer health promoter. In 26 percent of the bateyes there are outpatient clinics, 4 percent have a medical office, 3 percent have rural clinics, and 2 percent have small pharmacies. These health statistics show the great need being met through the medical project sponsored by COTEDO and the Church of the Brethren.

From 1822-1844, Haiti occupied the Dominican Republic. Then a war between the two countries ensued and the Republic gained independence from its neighbor. Restoration of international relations has not been easy. Haiti and the Dominican Republic continue to have their differences. Currently, tensions between the two countries still exist and many Dominicans view the pilgrimage of Haitians into the Dominican Republic to find work an invasion of their land.

The Church of the Brethren is seeking to set an example in the Dominican Republic. Intercultural relationships are continually being formed. Of the 19 congregations, fellowships, and preaching points in the Dominican Republic, two congregations and one preaching point are composed mainly of persons of Haitian descent. The youth and adults from these two nationalities gather and share in song, prayer, and scripture. These worship activities cross the cultural boundaries and help unite the Dominican Brethren.

"My impression is that amid the significant historical, economic, and racial tensions that exist between people of Haitian and Dominican descent, the Dominican Brethren have shown significant spiritual maturity in the way they live and work together as one body of Christ," says Jerry Crouse, mission coordinator for the Church of the Brethren General Board.

Amy Rhoades, a member of Trinity Church of the Brethren, Daleville, Va., is living in the Dominican Republic for six months assisting with translation for mission work and workcamps and living with Dominican Brethren families.

(continued from p. 16)

Through Ricardo's initiatives, two Dominican Church of the Brethren congregations have joined together to begin preaching points in the Las Charcas and Carmona bateyes. Ricardo is grateful for this opportunity to share her passion for Christ and her compassion for the poor.

"My work here is a great experience," she said. "I'm like a missionary and I'm very happy to be here."

Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren pastor Ralph Detrick says that Ricardo and her ministry have been a blessing to their congregation as well. Karen Wenger of the congregation's witness commission observes, "I am so pleased with the success of Ricardo's efforts. I am also delighted in the support we have seen, not only from our membership, but from others as well. Our projected workcamp in the Dominican Republic for this August filled quickly. We even have a weekly Spanish class organized so that we can learn to speak with our new friends. I hope our relationship will continue for a long time."

Rebecca Baile Crouse, and her husband, Gerald, serve as mission coordinators for the Church of the Brethren General Board in the Dominican Republic. She is an ordained minister and a member of the Antioch congregation, Rocky Mount, Va. She has three children, Steve, 10, Jacob, 8, and Christy, 5.

net.domain.
host.com.org
www.org.com.net.domain.hosts.html.co
org.com.net.domains.hosts.htm.www.
.org.com
domains

Lost on the information highway?

Turn to an e-service you can trust.

eMountain Communications, the electronic ministry of the Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust, can assist you with your Internet and technology needs.

- **Basic Web hosting.** Reasonable rates to get you or your congregation on the Web: $4.95/month basic plan; $12.95/month enhanced plan.
- **Secure Web hosting and e-mail.** Encrypted Web transactions and e-mail messages provide a protected environment for commerce, registrations, and donations.
- **Internet access.** ClearViewNet delivers filtered Internet access that adheres to and witnesses Brethren values.
- **Other Services.** Web site design, basic e-mail accounts, domain name registration, e-commerce Web sites, and video conferencing.

eMountain™ COMMUNICATIONS

A ministry of Brethren Benefit Trust

1505 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1619
800-250-5757 847-742-0135 fax
www.eMountain.net

Brethrening

A prayer to share

After Monroe and Ada Good, of Holtwood, Pa., came across this anonymously written prayer in an ecumenical newsletter, they shared it with family friends and those who participated with Monroe in Nigeria workcamps.

"May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you will live deep in your heart.

"May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, exploitation of people and the earth, so that you will work for justice, equity, and peace.

"May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer, so you will reach out your hand to comfort them and change their pain into joy.

"And may God bless you with foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world so you will do the things which others say cannot be done."

Messenger *would like to publish other short, colorful, humorous or poignant stories of real-life incidents involving Brethren. Please send your submission to* Messenger, *1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120-1694 or e-mail to the editor at ffarrar_gb@brethren.org.*

Caring for creation

Ron Brunk of Ivester, Iowa enjoys his moment in the sun during a hike in Blue Hole National Park. Earlier he and the others had been caught along this rain forest trail—appropriately, perhaps—in a downpour.

Reflections from a Faith Expedition to Central America

PHOTOS AND STORY BY DAVID RADCLIFF

Plants with leaves as broad as ironing boards. Bugs bigger than we'd ever care to meet. Rain alighting high in the canopy, never to make its way to the ground. Five-inch-wide highways along the ground created by the relentless march of leaf-cutter ants. The tantalizing possibility of a jungle cat sighting. Experiencing all this while based at the solar-powered Jaguar Creek Christian environmental center in the middle of the jungle.

And this was just the Belize half of the experience. From there it was on to Guatemala for 15 participants taking part in a first-ever environmental Faith Expedition sponsored by the Church of the Brethren. The group ranged in age from 15 to 65, and took on spelunking, snorkeling, hiking through rain storms, visiting isolated Guatemalan communities, and generally soaking up the sights, sounds, and smells of life in the tropics during their January trip.

As the firsthand accounts below testify, the trip was clear evidence that we live in an increasingly interrelated world. Of course, this is how God planned it: The earth as a living system in which goodness is spread through the chain of life. Yet we now find that goodness is not the only thing that courses along the chain. Economic policies on one continent have environmental impact on another, as do choices about how we use land or what kind of foods we expect to have readily available.

Some say that the chain is stretched taut, with links in danger of pulling apart. It's hard to believe otherwise when hearing that as many as 100 species of living things become extinct each day, mostly due to habitat destruction in the tropics. Do we have the right to so easily destroy what God so lovingly created? And isn't it even in our self-interest to think twice before bidding any part of God's creation an eternal farewell, as only one percent of plants on the planet have been tested for possible human benefit?

At the conclusion of this article are ideas about living as better stewards of God's good earth. For now, here are reflections of some of the folks who recently flew south for part of their winter.

Karl Joseph

16 years old
Onekama, Mich.

This trip was an amazing experience for me. I saw and learned a million things, but I think what made the biggest impression on me was the drastic difference between the Central American peoples' relationship with the land, and ours.

I had never before seen a place where most of the people make a living on the land they farm. It seemed to be that everyone who lived in rural areas had a farm to support their family.

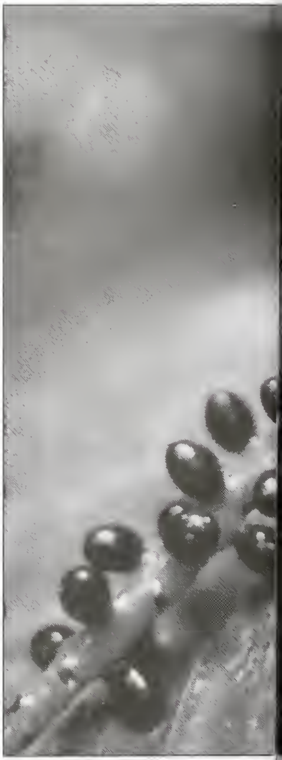
We spent one morning in Belize with a Mayan man named Jacinto who used the land the same way as his ancestors did, with the slash and burn techniques. Jacinto explained the good and bad points of that approach to farming, including the problem of increasing population. Many, many families have 10 or 15 children. Large families are a part of their culture, but now it is a problem, because land and resources are becoming increasingly scarce.

The contrast between Belize and Guatemala was quite drastic. In Guatemala, we could see the harsh environmental problems everywhere we went. Most of the small farmers are too poor to be environmentally responsible. They need to have firewood all the time, to cook all their meals. They have to use the little land they have for farming to make a living, and that usually means that they plant coffee and bananas on hillsides that are obviously too steep. Many people know how precious the land and forests are. But even if they realize their impact on the environment, their poverty forces them to try to get the most from what they have.

American-owned corporations in Central America grow coffee and bananas, often using chemical fertilizers and pesticides and corrupt farming practices that are exploitative to the land and the farmers working for them.

Only a fraction of the money that we pay for this food that we take for granted actually goes to the farmers. Also, the export crops use land that would otherwise grow food for the Guatemalan people.

I was constantly amazed by how much our lifestyle as Americans affects the environmental and economic situation in Central America. The most crucial thing I learned while I was on this trip was the importance of being, at the very least, aware of these problems that seem so far away. The earth, our home, is amazingly fragile and interconnected—something we as Americans often have a hard time seeing. This visit was a vivid reminder to me of just how true that really is.



Plant life in the tropical forest is diverse, exotic, and leans to gigantism. Tropical forest may contain more than 65 different species of trees per acre compared to only four tree species per acre in a (North American or European) temperate forest. Less than one percent of the earth's plants have been tested for possible human benefit; one in eight plants is currently threatened with extinction.

The health of tropical birds is closely tied to actions taken in somewhat less-than-exotic places like the fields and forests—and grocery stores and pet shops—of our own country. Just as for parrots and macaws, loss of habitat and the pet trade threaten the Keel-billed Toucan.

Marisa Yoder

High school biology teacher, environmental awareness advocate for Brethren Witness office
Goshen, Ind.

Life is a balancing act. Inhale, exhale. Work, play. Earn money, spend money. Athlete, couch potato. Talk, listen. Home, church, work. Balance is crucial to the quality of our lives. So it is with nature too. God created day and night, land and water, plant and animal, male and female, birth and death.

I was reminded of the delicate balance that exists in nature as I stood under the large leaves of a young tree in Belize's Blue Hole National Park during a hard rain. I could hear the pounding of rain on the leaves of the upper canopy, so I knew it was raining hard, but I was not getting drenched.

As the raindrops slid down one leaf to the next then to a stem and on to a tree trunk, some of the water was captured by orchids, bromeliads and ferns, and the force and the quantity of the water was diminished. Water that hit the forest floor covered with leaf litter slowly trickled into the protected soil.

Water that hit the bare, compacted footpath, on the other hand, created a little stream that soon took on the reddish color of the soil as it flowed to lower ground. The soil needs to retain water to sustain plant life that in turn sustains the birds, the insects, the frogs, and many other animals. Cut down the trees and lose both the wildlife and the soil. Lose the soil and eventually the trees will perish and the wildlife with them. Balance between soil, water, animals, and plants is what keeps a rain forest alive and productive.

The narrow footpath created by hikers before me and used by our group had obviously upset the balance of the rain forest in a small way. But I am guilty of disturbing the delicate balance of the rain forest in more dramatic ways. My lifestyle demands resources like lumber, oranges, cabbage, snow peas, and coffee that are coming from the logging or the destruction of rain forests—and this is in part why rain forest in the tropics is being cut down at the rate of an acre a second. In addition, Belize and Guatemala have huge financial debts and they are trying to repay those debts by increasing their exports to the US.

How can I help restore the balance? I can buy only products that have the Eco-OK symbol. I can demand to know where my goods are coming from. I can become a wiser consumer, which often means spending a little bit more money, while supporting businesses that buy their goods from cooperatives, organic farmers, or shade farmers. I can help maintain the balance of nature by investing a little more of my time and my resources in practices that are nature-friendly.

Life—all of life on this planet—is a balancing act. What is each of us doing to maintain the balance that God intends for this good earth?

Chris Eberly

Ornithologist, Mid-Atlantic District creation stewardship advocate
Warrenton, Va.

Neotropical migratory birds nest in the US and Canada, then migrate south to the tropics each fall. Every year, these birds keep our nation's forests, grasslands, and wetlands healthy by consuming literally tons of insects, often keeping potentially damaging outbreaks in check. And just try to imagine a sunny spring morning without their beautiful dawn chorus.

But we are in danger of losing them. Neotropical migrant bird populations have been declining at an alarming rate over the past 30 years, as documented by a continent-wide survey. Only recently have we begun to unravel the connections of the different habitats that these birds require throughout the four seasons.

In our country, forest fragmentation from development and the conversion of native grasslands to agriculture reduce nesting success. Coastal areas that used to provide critical refueling stops during migration have now been "developed" as luxury resorts.

Further south, tropical deforestation completes the fractured puzzle these birds must piece together every year in order to survive. Envision birds that breed throughout the vastness of the US, Canada, and Alaska converging on Mexico and Central America each fall—an area perhaps one-tenth that size. We can then begin to understand the impact of losing even small areas of tropical forest.

The areas we visited in Belize and Guatemala provided a stark contrast in forest cover and in the number and diversity of bird species. While Belize was striking for its often heavily forested hills and mountains, historically forested areas on the Pacific slope highlands of Guatemala are now heavily farmed and mostly devoid of forests, even on steep hillsides. In addition, pesticides such as DDT (supplied by the US) are still used, often haphazardly.

Have the insatiable demands of the American consumer society doomed these birds? Coffee is only one example, but a good one. Corporations that produce our supermarket coffee brands cut down rain forest and plant coffee as a crop in full sun. Not only does this require chemicals that run off into streams and wells, these sun coffee plantations are almost completely devoid of biological life. Coffee grown in the traditional manner under the shade of the rain forest canopy (or banana or cacao trees) does not require pesticides or chemical fertilizers. And shade coffee plantations retain as much biological diversity as rain forest.

There are many ways we can help conserve habitat for migratory birds (and help people, too, in the process). One is certainly through our consumer purchasing power.

When you consider your coffee purchases this spring, think birds! Migratory songbirds prefer shade coffee. Shouldn't we?

The Church of the Brethren is joining an effort to purchase 4,000 acres in the Eden Conservancy, a portion of which is pictured here. Orange groves encroach less than 100 yards from this spot along the river..

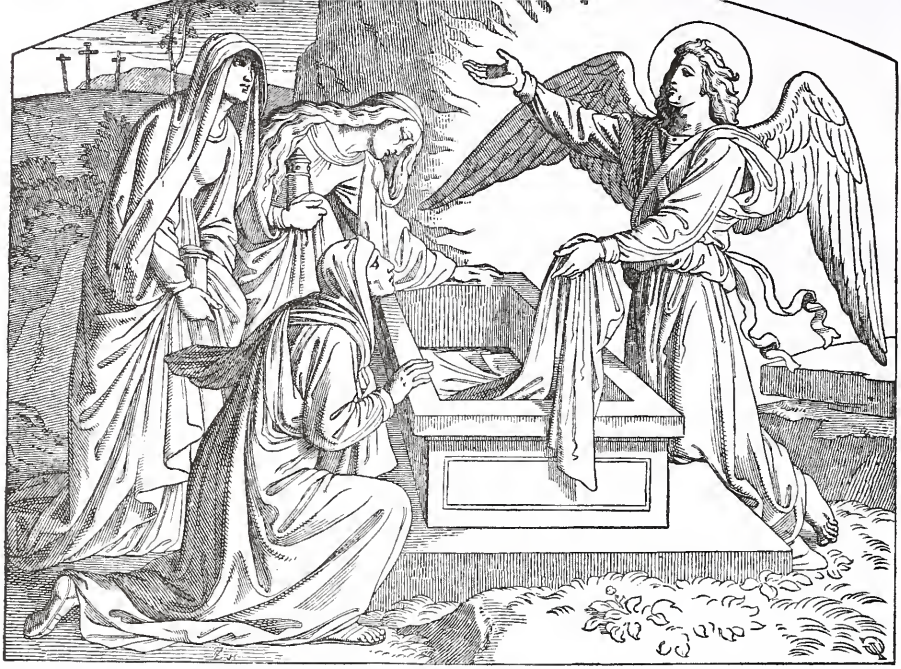
Shouldn't we each be living like the stewards God calls us to be? BVSer Samantha Morris of the Evergreen congregation, Stanardsville, Va., took that call seriously, spending the past year at the Jaguar Creek Center helping carry out the creative and important ministries of that Christian organization. And BVSer Robert Stiles is working even now with Church of the Brethren-sponsored environmental development projects in Guatemala. Both played key roles in making the recent Faith Expedition possible.

But we don't all have to go to Belize or Guatemala for a short trip or a long-term project. There are plenty of things we can do right where we live to maintain or restore balance to God's earth.

- Become a Creation Care Congregation, making stewardship of creation a priority in personal and community life.
- Request care of creation resources, including the environmental newsletter *The Third Day.*
- Take part in the "If a tree falls. . ." project of rain forest preservation being undertaken by the General Board. Every $125 preserves an acre of rain forest in Belize or helps plant several thousand trees in Guatemala.
- Go along on a Faith Expedition to Central America—or visit an unspoiled area near your home.
- Join BVSers and head to Central America as part of an environmental project (contact the BVS office or Global Mission Partnerships office of the General Board).
- Give to the Global Food Crisis Fund wood-conserving stove project in Guatemala. Compared to open fires, each stove reduces wood consumption—and resultant deforestation—by 75 percent.
- Become passionate about some aspect of respecting and renewing God's good earth.

The Brethren Witness office can provide these and other resources. But that's just the beginning. The real work—and real joy—begin when we ask God to help us find our place in this wonderful and well-balanced world, a world that brings us blessing even as we return the favor by becoming the good stewards that God intends. M.

David Radcliff is director of Brethren Witness for the General Board.



MasterClips

It causes me to tremble

An Easter reflection on a favorite spiritual

BY KENNETH L. GIBBLE

Marianne Sackett

What makes you tremble? What makes you shake or shiver, quake or quiver? When you're sick with the flu, your body does those things, of course. Or when you go swimming and you get out of the water and the cool air hits you, maybe your teeth chatter, your skin gets goose bumps, and you stand there shivering.

But what else makes you tremble, makes your body quiver with excitement or anticipation? A first date, a job interview, a tense moment in a ball game? How about going to church? Does the possibility of what might happen to you in worship, on Easter Sunday or any other Sunday, make you tremble? Probably not, right?

Most North Americans expect worship on a Sunday morning to be fairly quiet and dignified. It's what we are used to. Some Christians, of course, are used to worship that is noisy and rambunctious, with lots of body movement, hand clapping, even shouting. But most of us don't tremble outwardly in church.

What about inwardly? Does what is said or sung, spoken or prayed, ever make you tremble inside? Are you ever overwhelmed by the power of the gospel, by the amazing grace of God? Does it ever shake you up?

The spiritual asks, not once but twice: "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" And then, without waiting for an answer, the song makes its own testimony: "Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble." And you can tell, by those words, that whether or not you or I were there when they crucified our Lord, the singer *was* there, and the sight of Jesus being nailed to the tree, pierced in the side, laid in the tomb, caused a terrible, fearful trembling.

But then we come to the last verse of the spiritual: "Were you there when he rose up from the dead?" And you'd think that resurrection would elicit a different reaction. Not fear, but gladness. But notice what the song says: "Were you there when he rose up from the dead? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble."

And if you are wondering why the trembling, why not a breaking forth of hallelujahs on Easter in this song, remember that in the Gospel accounts of the first Easter, the reaction of those who learn about the resurrection is not happiness, not elation, but confusion, disbelief, and fear.

Wouldn't your reaction and mine have been the same? I prefer life to be predictable, sensible, manageable. I'm not fond of surprises. Even pleasant surprises make me uncomfortable. Whenever one of those eventful birthdays came along for me—like the big Four-0 or the big Five-0—I told my wife: "Promise me, no surprise birthday parties."

I realize this confession makes me sound hopelessly dull and boring, but there it is. I'm the kind of person who prefers that, as the Apostle Paul put it, "all things should be done decently and in order" (1 Cor. 14:40).

Decently and in order. That's how Luke's account of the first Easter begins. Joseph, described as "a good and righteous man," does a good and righteous thing. He takes the corpse of Jesus and lays it in a tomb. And the women did what was customary in their time when a loved one died. They prepared spices and ointments, and they made plans to go to the tomb and anoint the body of the dead man.

Listening to this account, we admire Joseph and the women for their faithfulness and their courage. We nod our heads in approval at their steadfastness, their loyalty. There is much to be said about such people, the kind of people you can count on—people who are dependable, who won't let you down when the going gets rough, people who will be there for you at times of disappointment and sadness, people who know what needs to be done and will do it.

When these good, loyal women come to the tomb and find it empty, when they see "two men . . . in dazzling apparel" and hear them say that their Lord is risen from the dead, it's perfectly natural that the women would be terribly frightened, would fall face down on the ground. A Lord risen from the dead is not predictable, it is not manageable, it is something totally new. When resurrection happens, you tremble.

So the women get to their feet and run back to tell the men what they had seen and heard. And the reaction of the men? Luke says, "these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe [the women]" (24:11).

And why should they believe them? Resurrection is not believable. It doesn't fit the way we live our sensible, predictable, manageable lives.

We have domesticated Easter, tamed it, stripped it of its power to produce anything that remotely resembles trembling. Easter is something we just do—once every spring.

But resurrection? Resurrection is something only God can do.

So let me ask you again: What makes you tremble? I hope that Easter makes you tremble at least a little bit. Not because it's a one-day-and-done-deal each spring, but because it is the announcement of God's victory over all the things that conspire against us—discouragement, pain, loneliness, disease, loss, injustice, hatred, and yes, even death. Even death. The final word belongs to God. It's a word of triumph. It's the bold assertion that nothing can defeat the power of God's love and grace.

That is enough to make you and me tremble with amazement and with joy. M.

Kenneth L. Gibble, pastor of the Chambersburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, is a frequent contributor to MESSENGER.

'Come with me to a quiet place'

Retreat house at Camp Mack welcomes the weary and feeds the spiritually hungry

A QUIET PLACE

An unneeded house *at Camp Mack was transformed—by the Holy Spirit and hard work—into a spiritual retreat center.*

BY SANDY HENDERSON

"It was a dark and stormy night" when I first came to A Quiet Place in April of 1996—one of a group of six women gathering at this Brethren contemplative prayer center on the grounds of Camp Mack in Milford, Ind. We had been meeting in each others' homes for more than a year, but most of us had never been on this kind of a retreat before.

I remember the light spilling from the farmhouse door, and director Norma Miller's warm smile and soft-spoken greeting. I remember the plaque above the kitchen table: "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31). The day's busyness and the stress of the hour-long drive flowed away into the peacefulness of that simple welcome.

The phone rang. Norma announced that there was a tornado warning and we should take shelter. The seven of us clambered down the steep basement stairs (it was your basic "unfinished" farmhouse basement). We perched where we could, and to entertain ourselves began to sing old songs some of us remembered from Sunday school and camp: "Amazing Grace," "This Little Light of Mine," and rousing choruses of "Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory!"

My friend Patty Lane wrote later, "The basement uncovered tones in our voices that we had not heard before today. We blended and there was something hypnotic about our voices ringing together in the stone room. As each song ended I felt like I was waking up."

I have been to several retreats at the Quiet Place since that first one, and each one has brought a special gift, of tears or song or silence or discovering a wild place on a new path. What was once an ordinary "dark and rather uninviting house" (in the words of Norma Miller) has been transformed by love, faith, care, and prayer to something we need and long for, whether we know it or not.

"I know that most of us are spiritually starved — hungry at least—and we are not aware of it until we get to a place that is quiet enough," Milller told me as we sat at the Quiet Place kitchen table on a sunny fall afternoon. She described feeling one point in her life that her soul was shriveled, "like those dehydrated vegetables. Once you add water, though, they become pretty good vegetables.

"I don't think we know how much trouble we're in."

On her first retreat (some years ago in Michigan), Miller was so exhausted she slept most of the weekend. The director of the retreat center gave her the scripture Psalm 127, v.2: "It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved."

"It gave me permission to take care of myself," Miller said. "Eventually I realized that rather than running away from situations [by going on retreat], I was running to God. Jesus took care of himself that way, getting into a boat, just rowing away from the people.

"I came to a very important awareness of the intimate loving relationship with God —sitting at the feet of Jesus, not because there isn't anything else important to do, but because it's what you want to do."

How to visit A Quiet Place

A Quiet Place can accommodate five or six people for an overnight stay — more than that for day-long retreats. Retreats can be directed, or can be personal prayer time. Spiritual direction is available. The grounds include many trails through open meadows, prairie, and wooded areas; and wildlife is abundant.

For more information about A Quiet Place, contact: A Quiet Place, Camp Alexander Mack, P.O. Box 158, Milford, IN 46542. Tel. 219-658-4831 You can also find information on the Web at www.campmack.org

Objects in the house *nurture retreatants in different ways, depending on the leading of the Spirit.*

A Quiet Place began as a dream in the heart of former Annual Conference moderator Phyllis Carter, who believed strongly that the Church of the Brethren needed a place for quiet retreat and prayer. With a committee of people who shared that dream, she spent a year and a half searching for a possible location. Meanwhile, Camp Mack had a small house no longer needed as lodging for volunteer workers. Camp director Becky Ball-Miller wondered what might be done with the house — and asked Phyllis if she knew anything about retreat centers!

The Holy Spirit may have provided the opportunity, but it took many hours of hard work by John Carter and other volunteers to prepare the place. They painted and renovated the house; provided furniture, books, and artwork as well as such mundane things as pots and pans and bedding; and cleaned up the grounds. A Quiet Place officially opened on March 3, 1996, just a few weeks before my group arrived.

"I can choose things for the house that have been especially meaningful for me but I am always surprised by what catches someone else and nurtures them," said Miller of her work as the center's part-time director. "I call it 'Ambushed by the Spirit.' It is such a blessing to realize that you are not in control of that.

"One pastor here on retreats watched a particular tree. One day she went back and lightning had split it. She had been working with her church on what happens when a church splits. She used the image of that tree in her journal."

A recent addition to A Quiet Place that has caught people's attention is a labyrinth mowed into the grass near the house by Elsa Littman of La Porte, Ind. Miller has written a brochure of prayers to be used in walking the labyrinth, an ancient prayer practice that has recently become widely popular. "I am always so surprised by the number of people who just stop by and walk it. . . . A person recently spent an entire morning journaling on her reflections of what happened with her and the labyrinth. It was a powerful time between her and God."

Miller stresses the importance of times of complete silence, and encourages silence at retreat meals, especially breakfast. "Everything we do should have that constant awareness of the presence of God in it."

Contemplative practices like retreats to A Quiet Place seem somehow foreign to many down-to-earth Brethren, and silence can be downright scary. Many of those who come to A Quiet Place are from other denominations. The prayer center offers a free retreat day as a birthday present to all Church of the Brethren pastors in the area, but only a few have taken up the offer.

What would encourage more Brethren to explore the possibilities of A Quiet Place? "I wish I knew," Miller said. "No amount of writing is going to change people's minds. But generally when people experience A Quiet Place they want to come back."

"I hope as we receive more guests here that it will become more evident —that this is a place where many prayers have been said." I can feel that, every time I arrive. *M.*

Sandy Henderson is a member of the La Porte (Ind.) Church of the Brethren.

The journey from here

A report on the state of the church

Judy Mills Reimer
Executive Director, General Board

Messenger Dinner
5 pm, Sunday, July 16
Kansas City

Join Messenger for a relaxing dinner, then hear the executive director of the General Board deliver her "State of the Church" address, a report on where we are and where we're going as a denomination at the beginning of the new millennium. Program concludes in time for the evening business session.

Please order tickets in advance. There may be no on-site ticket sales. Call the Annual Conference office at 800-323-8039 to order.

Letters

Brethren and Calvinists should not be surprised by the growth in churches where the witness is expected to be more vocal.

Not just anything goes

I write regarding the Jan.-Feb. letter from one who does not want to "emphasize the name of Jesus" and feels so "sad to hear so much emphasis on the Christian religion compared to other religions."

It may sound sweet and loving to think any religion goes. The Bible just does not teach so. A better part of the Old Testament is God's warning and response to the Israelites' tolerance and incorporation of other religions. Most of the New Testament uncompromisingly espouses Christ as *the only way,* and the Great Commission to carry this message to the ends of the earth.

Joy Welch
Pyrmont Church of the Brethren
Lafayette, Ind.

My vision for the church

The name by which our denomination chooses to be known is much less significant to me than the following:

- that we strive to be inclusive.
- that we always ensure "our word is as good as our bond."
- that seeking "to do the things that make for peace" (both locally and globally) continues high on our list of priorities.
- that we be true to our spiritual heritage as we "remain *in* the world but not *of* it."

Peggy Yoder
Stone Church of the Brethren
Huntingdon, Pa.

A pearl of wisdom

As one who is very sympathetic to Brethren ways and who served as a Brethren pastor from 1992 to 1998, I was interested in Fletcher Farrar's reaction to the interpretation of the parable of the Pearl of Great Price which indicated that we believers are the pearl [see "Bible study and the Kingdom of God," Jan.-Feb.].

From my Reformed (Calvinist) background perspective, this is a rather common interpretation. And it serves to illustrate some variables on how one reaches conclusions regarding scripture interpretation. The Calvinist has obvious doctrinal presuppositions (emphasizing God's sovereignty, election to salvation, predestined ends and means, etc.) which make it natural to see these in the aforementioned parable. If the Brethren person reached that interpretation through Spirit-led and corporate study, that is worth celebrating.

The sobering realities for both groups involve the tendency on the one hand for Calvinists to conclude that one must believe the correct doctrines. This may or may not lead to a grace-filled and joyous evangelistic witness resulting in numerical growth for God's kingdom. On the other hand, Brethren will be too often satisfied with behaving correctly, following the example of Jesus, and may seldom give voice to answer anyone who asks a reason for the hope that you have (1 Peter 3:15).

Brethren and Calvinists should not be surprised by the growth in churches where the witness is expected to be more vocal.

Carl H. Van Farowe
Johnston, Iowa

Worshipfully ~ Continue the Work of Jesus

Enrich decision-making and congregational life through:

Storytelling Biblical reflection
Prayful discernment Vision

For more information, call your Congregational Life Team Coordinator, or contact your District Executive.

A Ministry of the Congregational Life Ministries in Partnership with Bethany Seminary and the Districts.

Church of the Brethren
General Board

© Worshipful-Work

MOM: A model for ministry

After 15 years in pastoral ministry in small, rural congregations, I feel that I have finally determined what it is that people want and expect from a pastor. They want to be loved, they want to be encouraged, they want to be cared for, they even want to be pampered. In short, they want to be mothered.

Now there is the irony. Who is better able to mother than mothers? Women? We men are simply not able to provide what congregations want as well as women, and yet who do we still often exlude? Those who are most gifted and qualified for the job. Now mind you, some men do pretty well, and some women really mess it up, but let's face it, those qualities we usually expect from our pastors are unequally present in those we are often hesitant to utilize.

So why are we so hesitant? Our stated reason is that we desire to be faithful to scripture. We especially like Paul, because Paul has lent himself to easy interpretations that serve our cause, but let's take a little further look. Probably the most often cited passage is 1 Corinthians 14:33-40. Interestingly enough, however, women speaking in church is not the issue here, but the issue is, rather, orderly and reverent worship. Now, it would take an entire theological treatise to unravel all the complexities of Paul's theology, and frankly, I'm not convinced that anyone who does not want to be persuaded would be impressed, so I won't take the time. Let me simply remind us that this is the same apostle who stated in Galatians 3:28 that in Christ Jesus, there is neither male nor female.

So the real question is, do we of the small congregation really want an answer to our dilemma? Do we really want good pastors? There is a further irony. Another lesson of the past 15 years is that our small congregations that survive do so because of the dedication of women. In many cases, the men have simply dropped the ball, while the women have borne the burden of the tasks necessary to keep the local church alive. I suspect that this has always been the case. In Romans 16, Paul urges support for those he names as the leaders and servants of the church, and the majority he names are women.

I have a pretty strong streak of nonresistance in me. I have no desire to fight or argue over the issue. I'm not interested in forcing my opinions on anyone. What I am interested in is helping any small congregations that are frustrated or discouraged by inability to find an adequate pastor, to broaden the horizons of their search. I'm not suggesting that you "settle" for a woman. I'm suggesting that if you can get over the hurdle of a lifetime of scriptural misinterpretation, you could be rewarded with just exactly what you have needed and wanted in a pastor in the first place.

When it comes to unconditional love, you just can't beat mom. When I was growing up, I was fortunate to have two loving parents. But when there was a real need for understanding and acceptance, it was mom who could be counted on. Several years ago my mother died. I had never considered the possibility of anyone else filling that role, but my dad has remarried, and wonder of wonders, I have a brand new mom! Forty-nine years old, and I can still go and feast at the table of acceptance and unconditional love.

Perhaps someone is offended by the model of the church as a bunch of pathetic creatures who still need their mamas. Well, every metaphor breaks down eventually, but I do believe that *real* men and *real* women have an eternal bond with their mothers, precisely because of the quality of the relationship. And it is those qualities from which the church can benefit. I am not suggesting that we think of female pastors as our mothers; I'm suggesting that the qualities which made certain people good mothers can make them good pastors.

Steven W. Mason, pastor
Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren
Grottoes, Va.

Coordinator,
Brethren Academy

Bethany Theological Seminary and the Church of the Brethren General Board announce an opening for the position of Coordinator, Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, beginning September 1, 2000. Areas of responsibility include certificate programs of ministry training, continuing education and new initiatives for leadership development.

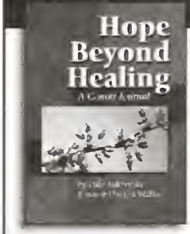
For a fuller description of responsibilities and qualifications, see "News" at www.brethren.org/Bethany, or call to request a copy at 1-800-287-8822, Ext. 1821. Qualified candidates are invited to send a resume and letter of application, and to request three references to send letters of recommendation to:

Academic Dean
Bethany Theological Seminary
615 National Road West
Richmond, IN 47374-4019

Application deadline: May 1, 2000

"If we suddenly find ourselves face to face with dying, we come up against ultimate questions.... After I received the diagnosis of advanced lung cancer, I needed to deal with those questions more intensely than I ever had before."

—Dale Aukerman



Hope Beyond Healing: A Cancer Journal by Dale Aukerman available now from Brethren Press for $14.95 plus shipping and handling charges.

Brethren Press
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

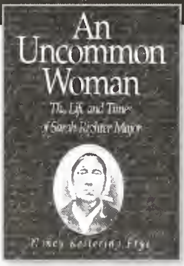
Messenger on Tape

MESSENGER is available on audio tape for persons with visual impairments. Each double-cassette issue contains all articles, letters and editorials. Volunteers of the Church and Persons with Disabilities Network, a ministry of ABC, provide this service.

Recommended donation is $10 (if you return the tapes to be recycled or $25 (if you keep the tapes).

To receive MESSENGER ON TAPE, please send your name, address, phone number and check (payable to ABC) to:

Association of Brethren Caregivers
1451 Dundee Ave.
Elgin, IL 60120



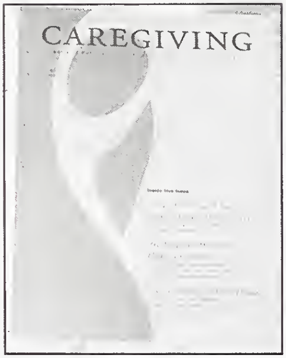
Man, that woman can preach.

An Uncommon Woman:
The Life and Times of Sarah Righter Major

Nancy Kettering Frye, *Brethren Press*. Infamous in the mid 1800s as a woman preacher in a man's world, Sister Sarah bravely preached the gospel wherever people invited her to speak. Nancy Kettering Frye provides details, facts, and stories about the life of the first female Brethren preacher. Step into the 19th century and meet the men and women who influenced Sarah Righter Major's life and supported her preaching ministry. #8224, $6.95

Brethren Press
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

CAREGIVING IS



"*Caregiving* is excellent and I hope ABC continues with the same terrific content and design. Thumbs up!"
— R. Kurt Borgmann, pastor
Oakton Church of the Brethren, Vienna, Va.

CAREGIVING is a quarterly publication dedicated to providing practical information and the latest news about caring ministries for the Church of the Brethren. Learn about caring ministries including deacons, older adults, families, chaplains, retirement communities, disabilities and whole health. Subscriptions are available for $10 annually or at special congregation rates. Call ABC to subscribe.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Association of Brethren Caregivers
1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120
phone 847-742-5100 fax 847-742-5160

Classified Ads

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

Spread the Word! Use MESSENGER classifieds to let people know what's going on. $55 purchases a single issue insertion of up to 80 words. Frequency discounts are available. Submit ads via fax (847-742-1407), e-mail (kstocking_gb@brethren.org), or letter (Messenger Classifieds, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120). Deadline is first of month prior to month of publication. Advertise today!

INVITATION

First Church, Chicago. 75 Years – April 29 & 30, 2000. Hundreds of Brethren have been part of our past. We invite you to join our future: 1) Come to Chicago April 29 & 30 for a two-day celebration/tea and homecoming. 2) Help us replace our front windows. Our campaign goal of $40,000 maintains our commitment to East Garfield Park and metro Chicago. More info: call Mary Scott Borea @ 773/235-7038. Pastor Orlando Redekopp. 425 Central Park Ave. Chicago, IL 60624

TRAVEL

Travel with us by coach to Annual Conference in Kansas City, leaving Elizabethtown, July 13, returning July 21. Visit Bethany Seminary in Richmond, Indiana enroute. For information, please write to J. Kenneth Kreider, 1300 Sheaffer Rd, Elizabethtown PA 17022.

Travel to the White Continent—Antarctica—including Argentina and Uruguay, January, 2001. Optional visits to Iguassau Falls and Chile available. Write to J. Kenneth Kreider, 1300 Sheaffer Road, Elizabethtown PA 17022.

Travel with a purpose to: Eastern Europe and the "Passion Play," July 31 to August 14, 2000, with Wendell and Joan Bohrer. Visit Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava, Krakow, Warsaw and much more. First Class tickets to the Passion Play, Folklore Show in Warsaw, Prague and Budapest. A Danube River Cruise in Budapest. Buffet breakfast and dinner throughout. Contact the Bohrers by mail—3651 US Hwy 27 S. #40, Sebring, FL 33870.0 Tel/Fax 941-382-9371. E-mail rdwboh@strato.net

POSITION AVAILABLE

Brethren Housing Association, a non-profit organization celebrating its tenth year serving the homeless families in the Harrisburg, Pa., area has a position available for an Executive Director. Duties involve broad administrative responsibilities including directing BHA's program, public relations, fund raising and property oversight. Experience preferred in administration and/or pastoral work with strong interpersonal skills. Hours and benefits negotiable. Please send resume to: Paul Wessell, Rhoads & Sinon LLP, PO Box 1146, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

La Casa de Maria y Marta seeks applicants for director. This San Antonio Mennonite Church ministry provides opportunities for groups to serve in the city while learning about realities in San Antonio and South Texas. Responsibilities include developing and directing service and learning programs for youth and adults and coordinating cross-cultural seminars for college students. Full-time, salaried position, housing provided. Spanish helpful but not required. For further information and an application, contact John Lichty (210) 533-7181.

Turning Points

New members

Bethlehem, Boones Mill, Va.: Sharon Grindstaff
Big Creek, Cushing, Okla.: Celena Cox, Bill McCaslin, Virginia McCaslin, Bobby Lease, Dennis Francis, Pamela Francis
Chambersburg, Pa.: Bobby and Ann Angle, Maria Banks, Richard Brown, Brenda DeLong, Tom Hovetter, Heidi Lightfoot, Jim and Dody Myers, Gary and Pam Seibert, Beverly Warren
Coventry, Pottstown, Pa.: Megan Monahan, Sarah Naylor, Nathan Brownback
Dayton, Va.: Galen Knighten, Jr., Adam Myers, Bob and Pat Taylor, Claudette Trout, Judi Miller
Geiger, Friedens, Pa.: Barry Klink, Molly Klink, Danny Vettori, Michael Miller, Diane Miller
Good Shepherd, Tipp City, Ohio: Jeff Hendricks, Lisa Hendricks, Amanda Morris, Richard Kee, Elizabeth Kee
Hollidaysburg, Pa.: Brian McGuire, Larry Shelow
Hollins Road, Roanoke, Va.: Jonathan Ayers, Amber Booth, Jennifer Garrett, Jessie Lamb
Huntsdale, Carlisle, Pa.: Charles Fahnestock., Rose Fahnestock, Crystal Smith, Barbara Keefer, Julie Yeager
Ivester, Grundy Center, Iowa: Megan Button, Connie Duncan, Mark Haren, Susan Haren, Sandy Hogle, Ashley Jensen, Kollin Leland, Kylee Leland, Leanne Kruse, Christy Reents, Elaine Reents, Sandy Schafer, Mark Tobias, Robby Tobias
Kokomo, Ind.: Shannon Taflinger, John and Joyce Fruth, Tiffany Seekri
Leake's Chapel, Stanley, Va.: Meagan Turner, Whitney Knighton, Ashley Newitt, Clay Newitt, Kaithyn Southers
Lebanon, Pa.: Ronald E. Ludwick, Peggy Ludwick
Liberty Mills, Ind.: Terry and Deborah Barrett, Alicia Barrett, Andrea Barrett, Emma Barrett, Kris and Beverly Dierks, Chad and Cindy Michael, Harold Poe, Carrie Poe, Holly Walters, Drew Walters, Wesley Williams, Evan Williams
Mechanic Grove, Quarryville, Pa.: Richard Drennen III, Sylvia Drennen, Walter Buckley, Angel Weigand, Matthew Kreider
Mohican, West Salem, Ohio: Willow Spencer, Scott Johnson, Todd Johnson, Edmond and Phyllis Becker
Osceola, Mo.: Regina Miller
Paradise, Smithville, Ohio: Cleona Winkler Scott
Petersburg Memorial, Petersburg, W. Va.: Jonathan Taylor, Kelli Mullenax, Katie Lambert, Sarah Beth Taylor, Kimberly Bible, Kim Mullenax, Corey Lambert, Ryan Lambert, Derek Nesselrodt, Pammy Alt
South Bay Community, Redondo Beach, Calif.: Esther Alaxander
Sugar Creek West, Lima, Ohio: Audrey Holt, Thomas White, Phyllis Borger, Kristin Hackworth, Jennifer Jones, Matthew Jones, Stephanie White
Topeka, Kan.: Bradley Puderbaugh, Paul Ingle, Regina Ingle, Doris Broadfoot, Casey Roberts, Andrew Fry, Andy Taylor, Ashley Puderbaugh
Troy, Ohio: Emma Batdorf, Sarah Langdon, Caitlin Neiswander, Matthew Riege, Jeannine Reed
Walnut Grove, Johnstown, Pa.: E. V. Shearer, Virginia Mountain, William Roudabush, Nancy Locher, Eric Locher, Arnold Locher
York, Pa.: Jodi Yingling, Leo and Linda Min, Ted and Alma Sievers, Carol Diehl

Wedding anniversaries

Barr, Ernest and Leita, Virden, Ill., 60
Bechtelheimer, John and Retha, Glendale, Ariz., 50
Bucher, Mark and Alice, Carlisle, Pa., 60
Flora, Ernest and Maybelle, Boones Mill, Va., 50
Huber, Earl and Charlotte, Conestoga, Pa., 50
Jordan, Fred A. and Clara, Salem, Va., 71
Kimmel, William and Mildred, Ozawkie, Kan., 50
Oshel, Clifford and Phyllis, Topeka, Kan., 50
Scofield, Donald and Dorothy, Kansas City, Mo., 55
Sharpes, Don and Bonnie, Dayton, Va., 50
Thomas, Bernard and Eleanor, Sebring, Fla., 50
Trenary, Morris and Alda, Bridgewater, Va., 50
Wentz, Edwin and Emma, Strasburg, Pa., 50
Whitcraft, John and Mary, North Manchester, Ind., 60

Deaths

Ballard, Orville, 89, Mt. Morris, Ill., Jan. 16
Beall, Donald M., Sr., 70, Beaverton, Mich., Dec. 2
Bennett, Viola, 89, Hagerstown, Md., April 13, 1999
Bishop, Dale, 75, Greenville, Ohio, Dec. 6
Bishop, Janice, 64, Greenville, Ohio, Sept. 26
Blough, Alma, 88, Somerset, Pa., Dec. 11
Bowers, Dale, 73, Dixon, Ill., Dec. 29
Bowman, Anna, 86, Greenville, Ohio, Dec. 8
Bowman, Earnest E., Fostoria, Ohio, Jan. 12
Boyd, Grace, 85, Troy, Ohio, Jan. 3
Bullard, Wayne, 80, Topeka, Kan., May 9, 1998
Butler, Lillian, 84, Kokomo, Ind., Dec. 10
Butts, Betty, 67, Chambersburg, Pa., March 18, 1999
Campbell, Henry, 76, Kokomo, Ind., Oct. 15
Chance, Sara "Sally," 80, west Grove, Pa., Dec. 28
Clark, Shelva, 61, July 21
Clingan, Mildred, 80, Hagerstown, Md., Dec. 18
Craighead, Virginia Mullins, 82, Roanoke, Va., Feb. 7, 1999
Cruz, Roger, Chicago, Ill., Dec. 18
Davis, Ada, 91, Mt. Morris, Ill., Oct. 8
Divers, Robert, 81, Rocky Mount, Va., Nov. 16
Estep, Paul, Dayton, Va., Dec.
Fairbanks, Helen, 82, Greenville, Ohio, Nov. 17
Fike, Rebecca Barr, Goshen Ind., Oct. 10
Fillmore, Gene, 75, Cushing, Okla., Jan. 4
Firebaugh, Florence, Mt. Morris, Ill., Oct. 21
Gilbert, Altha Swoyer, 89, Manhattan, Kan., Oct. 6, 1998
Gorman, Dorothy C., Pasadena, Md., Dec. 31
Grabill, Daniel, 94, Chambersburg, Pa., Dec. 19
Groff, Everett, Sebring, Fla., Oct. 9
Hann, Pansye, 85, Waynesboro, Pa., Dec. 19
Hardy, Walter, 88, Defiance, Ohio, Dec. 29
Harris, Hessie Perdue, 82, Roanoke, Va., Nov. 29
Hite, Carl T., 86, La Place, Ill., Dec. 17
Hoke, Robert, Dover, Pa., Aug. 15
Holderread, Edith, 75, Cushing, Okla., Oct. 28
Hopkins, William, 81, Hagerstown, Md., April 20, 1999
Howes, R. Eugene, 85, Kaleva, Mich., Nov. 10
Hykes, Charles, 89, Feb. 22, 1999
Jones, Mabel F., 91, Chatham, Ill., Dec. 14
Karns, Willis, 89, Tipp City, Ohio, March 18, 1999
Keim, Maurice, Sebring, Fla., Dec. 11
Kline, Catherine, 85, Williamsport, Md., March 3, 1999
Kreider, J. Benjamin, 74, Willow Street, Pa., Dec. 2
Leaman, Ruth Irvin, 93, Wooster, Ohio, Dec. 19
Lowe, leonard, Sebring, Fla., July 10
McAdams, Ernest, 85, Tipp City, Ohio, Oct. 4
Middlekauff, John, Sebring, Fla., Oct. 18
Miller, Fern, 92, Englewood, Fla., Nov. 21
Miller, Mary, 85, Williamsport, Md., Jan. 7, 1999
Mills, Grace, Monroeville, Pa., Dec. 23
Mills, William, Monroeville, Pa., Dec. 16
Moats, Glen, 89, Grundy Center, Iowa, April 29, 1999
Mohler, Harold I., 82, Warrensburg, Mo., Dec. 7
Murrey, Chester, 84, McPherson, Kan., Dec. 29
Neff, Eva V. R., 93, Harrisonburg, Va., Jan. 1
Niesley, Robert, Monroeville, Pa., Nov. 10
Palmer, Geraldine, 85, Hagerstown, Md., June 25
Park, Hazel, 91, Lima, Ohio, Jan. 5
Patterson, Elizabeth, Mt. Morris, Ill., April 27
Peiper, Martin, 83, Carlisle, Pa., Aug. 28
Peters, Kathryn, Sebring, Fla., Oct. 24
Peterson, Gertrude, Greenville, Ohio, Oct. 22
Peyton, Katherine, 89, Phillips, Eva, 73, Topeka, Kan., May 19
Powers, Willard, 90, Mt. Morris, Ill., Dec. 9
Raish, Richard, Dayton, Va., Dec.
Rebert, Helen, 96, Carlisle, Pa., April 3, 1999
Ridenour, Hattie, 84, Hagerstown, Md., April 1, 1999
Rowzer, Hazel, 92, Topeka, Kan., May 10, 1998
Rodgers, Todd D., 79, Windber, Pa., Nov. 8
Rose, Edith, 85, Tipp City, Ohio, Oct. 19
Rummel, Carmen, 97, Windber, Pa., Dec. 29
Schaff, Martha, 87, Hagerstown, Md., Nov. 17
Sell, Ethel, 82, Claysburg, Pa., Jan. 7
Sheller, Charles, Marshalltown, Iowa, Dec. 115
Sibley, Prudence, 88, Topeka, Kan., Jan. 17, 1998
Slifer, Clarence, Grundy Center, Iowa, Nov. 12
Sollenberger, Marian, 94, Carlisle, Pa., Sept. 21
Stoner, Mary Jane, 75, Hagerstown, Md., Jan. 10, 1999
Stong, Mary Ruth, 67, Huntington, Ind., Nov. 8
Stump, Maurice C., 84, Christiana, Pa., Dec. 21
Thomas, Ellen, 89, Holsopple, Pa., Jan. 3
Tolman, Irene, 88, Topeka, Kan., May 2
Travis, Ron, 50, Eldora, Iowa, June 14
Trimmer, Alice, 88, Carlisle, Pa., Dec. 27
Troupe, Esta, 92, Hagerstown, Md., Feb. 5, 1999
Tudor, Lawrence E., 79, Springfield, Ill., Jan. 11
Van Nordan, Thomas, 75, Hagerstown, md., Nov. 12
Vaughn, Leonard E., 83, Alexandria, Va., Nov. 29
Vivian, Howard L., 74, Springfield, Ill., Dec. 5
Walters, Emma, 104, Boswell, Pa., Dec. 27
Warner, Kathryn, 84, Dayton, Ohio, Dec. 6
Will, Mildred, 94, Hagerstown, md., March 24, 1999
Wright, Ralph, Rocky Mount, Va., Nov. 22
Yeager, Savilla E., 88, Chambersburg, Pa., Aug. 21

Licensings

Mickle, Chad Wayne, Dec. 5, New Enterprise, Pa.
Reffner, Earla, Nov. 28, New Enterprise, Pa.
Snair, Freeman Allen Jr., Dec. 26, Rockhill, Rockhill Furnace, Pa.

Ordinations

Crumrine, Duane E., Dec. 5, Clover Creek, Martinsburg, Pa.
Hooks, Eric, Sept. 26, Shelocta, Pa.
Mosorjak, Gary, Jan. 23, Locust Grove, Mount Airy, Md.
Yi, Tae Ho, Dec. 12, Grace Christian, Upper Darby, Pa.

Pastoral placement

Hunter, Steve, from interim to permanent, Mount Etna, Iowa
Leaman, Frank, to West Shore, Enola, Pa.
Miller, David Lloyd, from chaplaincy to Lick Creek, Bryan, Ohio (Note: March Turning Points listed incorrectly David L. Miller leaving Carson Valley, Duncansville, Pa. David L. Miller remains at Carson Valley.)
Schreyer, Manfred, to West Alexandria, Ohio
Snell, Donald, to West Goshen, Goshen, Ind.
Watern, Steve, from youth pastor at Cedar Grove, New Paris, Ohio, to Beech Grove, Hollansburg, Ohio

Editorial

Living like we're dying

In October 1998, I had the privilege of having breakfast in the home of Dale and Ruth Aukerman. I had heard of Dale for years and seen his byline in *Sojourners* and elsewhere, and so had been pleased when he sent me the manuscript that became his article "Living with dying" (April 1998 Messenger).

Even though I was meeting him at the end of his life I will always be grateful for that moment. It was an almost enchanting time when he picked me up in the near dark of a chill autumn dawn, and we drove in his basic car the few miles to where we turned into his country lane. I was surprised by the prim neatness of the yard and shrubs. And then after a warm welcome by Dale's wife, Ruth, I was surprised again when she set before us a breakfast of, not tofu and sprouts, but fried eggs.

The handcrafted house, decorated with relics, family photos, and Ruth's art, was elegant in its simplicity, as was our conversation. It was, that is, until I asked Dale what writing projects he was working on. He said he was writing a journal about his struggle with terminal cancer, which he hoped to get Brethren Press to publish. But he said he didn't know how long he would have to work on this. "You mean you don't know your *dead*line?" I blurted.

He laughed, thank goodness. Later I received a letter from Dale: "In German there is a word, *Sternstunde*, an occasion that stands out as very notable and blessed. During this time I've been given *Sternstunden* again and again, and the breafast with you here was one of them."

Now that I have read Dale's new book, *Hope Beyond Healing: A Cancer Journal*, just out from Brethren Press, I realize that it was precisely because he did know his deadline, at least more nearly than most of us know ours, that he lived so intently and so well during his last almost three years. The book begins with his diagnosis of cancer in November 1996, and everything afterward is measured by the time "since the diagnosis." The journal doesn't tell us how his days were spent before the diagnosis, though I gather his life was always pretty intense. But after he has cancer he visits with friends he hasn't seen in years, frequently talks with his wife about their love for each other, has his grown children home often, writes important articles, ponders scripture deeply, shares his faith openly, and plants trees.

Granted, we all work better with a deadline, but I came away thinking, this is how I want to live now. This book may be a good one to pull out and read again just before dying. But I think it is a good one to read just before living. Besides, we all have a deadline approaching. How close does it have to be before we start living life fully?

Dale worried about all the media attention he was getting for his public dying, even though he hadn't sought it. Others were dying with more faith and courage, he wrote. He came to peace on this issue by assuring himself that his intent was to point toward Jesus, not himself. I think God chose him for this job because, while he may have been a spiritual giant, he was a down-to-earth one, with a simple faith we all can identify with, a sense of humor, and a gift of words. His theology is more childlike than high. When his friend Don Murray, the actor, tells him we shouldn't speculate on the afterlife, he protests that scripture gives us an inkling, so there's no need to be too agnostic about it. Then he goes on to speculate that there will be a transition time after death before judgment, that we will be reunited with our spouses, and that heaven will be like a city where in the evening everyone comes into the street for shared life.

He twinkles when he tells of his big-city friend Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourners*, coming to the country to help the Aukermans plant trees. Wallis admits he's never planted a tree before, but nobody pays attention until he plants one with the roots pointing skyward.

Dale notes several times the irony of his accepting free oncology treatment from the US Navy as part of a clinical trial, after having spent a lifetime as a pacifist and protester against the military. When he exults to a doctor about the treatment being free, the doctor responds, "You pay taxes like everybody else." Dale's son Daniel, knowing of his father's war tax resistance and his penchant for earning a less-than-taxable income, says later, "If he only knew."

I love the way Dale ponders scripture. "I need to give more attention to the passage in Romans 14:7-9," he writes on New Year's Day, 1997. On the wedding feast passage of Mark 2:18-19 he writes, "I'm to be glad with Jesus the Bridegroom at the big party of life until I'm the one taken away." He loves Bach, and quotes Milton, Donne, and Shakespeare, too. But he keeps returning to scripture—Zephaniah, Isaiah, Job, Psalms, the Gospels, Revelation, Acts. This man had the Bible in his bones.

At the memorial service, Paul Grout noted that young people are rejecting the church, and we have presumed they are rejecting Christ. But he asks, "Is it possible they are rejecting our religion because they have not seen Christ in it?" In Dale Aukerman there was Christ through and through. And he has made me want to get started living like I'm dying. —Fletcher Farrar

Readers may order Hope Beyond Healing *from Brethren Press at 800-441-3712. Price: $14.95. Ask for Item #8233.*

A Brethren Education

Joining Academic Excellence with Brethren Values

Parietal bone
Occipital bone

The cornerstones of a Brethren education are found in the values of the church itself: faith, peace, justice and service. Upon this foundation, students develop the qualities essential for intellectual growth, personal integrity, a strong faith, and service to their church and communities. A Brethren education reinforces in students a system of values which they will carry throughout their lives.

Brethren Colleges Abroad
North Manchester, Indiana

ethany Theological Seminary
Richmond, Indiana

Bridgewater College
Bridgewater, Virginia

Elizabethtown College
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

Juniata College
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

University of La Verne
La Verne, California

Manchester College
North Manchester, Indiana

McPherson College
McPherson, Kansas

Church of the Brethren Collaboration on Admissions
COBCOA

e Brethren Recruiting Project • Church of the Brethren General Board • 1451 Dundee Ave. • Elgin, IL 60120

"WITHOUT THE HELP OF YOUR CHURCH, OUR DREAMS COULD NOT HAVE COME TRUE."

—the women of El Estribo, Honduras

A women's group yearning for a better life. A partner agency equipping and encouraging them. A Global Food Crisis grant providing chickens and pigs. The good Lord creating the water and soil and life itself. It's the stuff dreams are made of.

And now we've been asked by our partner, the Christian Commission for Development, to assist in providing animals for over 800 women in dozens of other communities.

Other agencies had turned them down. The Global Food Crisis Fund said yes. $42,676 worth of yes. The funds are to be sent over the coming months.

Now you—yourself, your class, your Vacation Bible School, your congregation—can say yes, too. Support this and other life-giving, dream-fulfilling ministries of the Church of the Brethren through the Global Food Crisis Fund.

Give 'til it helps.

Global Food Crisis Fund

Church of the Brethren General Board
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, Illinois 60120
1-800-323-8039, ext. 228

Church of the Brethren www.brethren.org May 2000

Messenger

love one another as I have loved you.

MODERATOR EMILY MUMMA

Showing Us How to Love

ENVISION A WORLD WHERE
THE ENVIRONMENT IS PROTECTED,
HUMAN DIGNITY IS UPHELD,
AND THERE IS NO VIOLENCE.

COME ENVISION THAT WORLD WITH US AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Staff and Board of Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust Cordially Invite You to the

SOCIALLY RESPONSIVE INVESTING RECEPTION

Monday, July 17, 2000, 4:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

Marriott Hotel Downtown, Basie Ballroom B1

Sample hot appetizers, socialize, and learn more about socially responsive investing.

There will be opportunities to ask questions and to listen to short, informal presentations on socially responsive investing by Geeta Aiyer of Walden Asset Management and Wil Nolen of Brethren Benefit Trust.

Reservations required. To R.S.V.P., call **800-746-1505, ext. 388**, or e-mail ACReception@Brethren.org.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
BENEFIT TRUST
INC

For more information on the Walden/BBT Social Index Funds, including charges, expenses, and ongoing fees, please call 800-746-1505 ext. 388 to receive a prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully before investing or sending money. United States Trust Company of Boston is the Investment Adviser for the Funds and has designated its Walden division to fulfill its obligations with respect to the Funds. Brethren Benefit Trust serves as a consultant on issues concerning peace and justice and is compensated by the adviser. BISYS Fund Services is the Funds' Distributor.

05/00

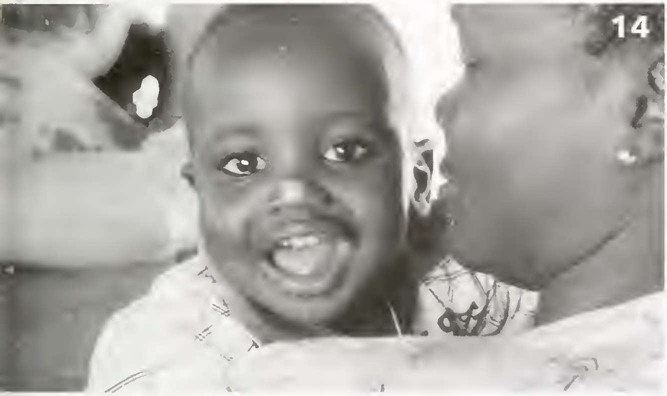
Messenger

Vol. 149, No. 4 May 2000 www.brethren.org

Editor: Fletcher Farrar
News: Walt Wiltschek
Subscriptions: Peggy Reinacher
Publisher: Wendy McFadden
Designer: Paul Stocksdale
Advertising: Russ Matteson

On the cover: When Emily Mumma was visiting the South/Central Indiana District in her travels as moderator, she dropped by the campus of Manchester College, for a brief visit with her oldest granddaughter, Jessica McInnis, a freshman. The cover photo shows Emily with Jessica and her roommate, Erica Switzer, in their room at Manchester. Emily comments on the photo: "Being there with Jessica brought to mind precious memories of when her mother (our daughter, Sara) was at Manchester and I'd make the drives up from our home in Florida to help her settle in and then pick her up at the end of each year." We thought the photo made a good illustration for the theme Emily chose for this year's Annual Conference: "Love, as I have loved you."

Walt Wiltschek



David Sollenberger

Departments

2 From the Publisher
3 In Touch
6 News
28 Letters
31 Turning Points
32 Editorial

10 Moderator Mumma's message

Before Annual Conference, get to know this year's moderator with this profile of Emily Mumma. Though she is a sometimes reluctant leader, when God calls she answers, carrying with her a message of what love is all about.

14 The Bible comes to Sudan

An article by Esther Boleyn and a four-page spread of color photographs by David Sollenberger help to tell a miraculous story from Sudan. Last-minute changes to a major ceremony, a harrowing flight, and a land torn apart by war and famine couldn't stop God's Word from coming to the Nuer people.

Ken Bomberger

20 Spiritual renewal takes work

There were 800 people at the Renovaré Conference on Spiritual Renewal in Elizabethtown, Pa. Participants heard Richard Foster teach that "balanced" spiritual growth takes training and discipline. Small groups help to sustain it.

24 Good medicine for the world

Interchurch Medical Assistance, a ministry with headquarters at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., celebrates 40 years of delivering healing medicines to hurting people around the globe. With support from the Church of the Brethren, the partner ministry faces new challenges to provide for unrelenting needs.

From the Publisher

When the Church of the Brethren General Board adopted a vision statement in March, it selected the simplest of phrases. Unlike most ecclesiastical language, this statement has no big words and can be understood and remembered by a child. It has six words. None is longer than four letters. Three words are the same. The other three are mere prepositions.

Of God, for God, with God. The words are deceptively simple. But the longer one lives with them, the more depth one finds. Together they demonstrate how profound language can be.

"Of God" describes whose we are. It evokes the first half of the Christopher Sauer words "For the glory of God and my neighbor's good." It is an affirmation of sitting in the presence of God, of receiving grace. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8).

"Christ is the divine presence that permeates the church," write Ben Campbell-Johnson and Glenn McDonald in *Imagining a Church in the Spirit* (p. 9). "Too often we have become blind to the presence and have continued running the church on a memory rather than actual communion with the living Lord." Despite the church's humanness, however, we are also a "bearer of the holy." Richard Foster says we are "participants in the work of grace" (*Streams of Living Water,* p. 90).

"For God" has to do with mission and purpose. If we are "for God," we are constantly seeking to discern the will of God. We will be the body of Christ in the world—reaching out, giving ourselves in acts of service, witnessing to peace and justice.

"With God" speaks to the how. It implies a life of daily discipleship, of being immersed in the Spirit. "We are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building" (1 Cor. 3:9).

Together, these simple prepositional phrases embody the inward and the outward, the pietistic and the Anabaptist, the being and the doing. The three parts also hint at the trinity. We are *of* God, brought into being by God the creator and made whole by grace. We are *for* God, serving as the body of Christ in the world—earthen vessels that we are. And we are *with* God, living in the light and strength of the Spirit.

These six words are not a mission statement, a description of what the General Board does. Rather, they serve as a magnet, drawing the board forward into the future. The words are a touchstone, guiding the board's decisionmaking. They express a yearning for that which has not yet been fully achieved.

This is the vision of the General Board as it seeks to serve and lead the Church of the Brethren. What is *your* vision? As each of us uncovers the vision that God has given us, may we work together to more nearly approach the fullness of life in Jesus Christ.

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

MESSENGER
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:
preinacher_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 847-742-5100
Fax: 847-742-6103

Display advertising:
rmatteson_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039
Fax: 847-742-1407

Editorial:
ffarrar_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 217-525-9083
Fax: 217-525-9269

Subscription rates:
$16.50 individual rate
$13.50 church group plan
$13.50 gift subscriptions

If you move, clip address label and send with new address to MESSENGER Subscriptions, at the above address. Allow at least five weeks for address change.

Connect electronically: For a free subscription to *Newsline,* the Church of the Brethren e-mail news report, write cobnews@aol.com.

To view the official Church of the Brethren website, go to http://www. brethren.org.

MESSENGER is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage matter Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 17, 1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of the Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religion News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Biblical quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New Revised Standard Version. MESSENGER is published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Church of the Brethren General Board. Periodical postage paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing office, May 2000. Copyright 2000, Church of the Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0355.
Postmaster: Send address changes to MESSENGER, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

Printed on recycled paper

A Cook-n-Pack Party helps the homebound

Last November the witness commission at Green Tree Church of the Brethren, Oaks, Pa., sponsored a Cook-n-Pack Party to support Aid For Friends. The organization supplies frozen meals and toaster ovens to cook them for homebound residents in a five-county Philadelphia area.

Last year the witness commission handed out instructions and meal tins to members of the congregation. Now, every Sunday people come to church bringing with them trays filled with home-cooked food.

But more meals were needed, so the witness commission decided to get together in the church's kitchen and cook and package many meals at once. The group packaged nearly 100 meals of turkey and stuffing, green beans, and apple crisp. Plans are for the church to do this several times a year.—Laurie Pavone

Wrapping it up: *Green Tree Witness Commission members and friends at the church's first Cook-n-Pack party. Pictured left to right, Leeann Randall and her mother, Maggie Randall, Dorothy Funderwhite, Frank Litardo, Harry Groff, Judi Murphy, Joan Groff, and Mary Levengood.*

Celebrating a life full of Brethren memories

Born Jan. 4, 1899, Miriam Longenecker Wagner celebrated her 101st birthday this year at the Brethren Home in Palmyra, Pa. She remembers growing up active in the Hoverday, Pa., congregation. She can remember the Harvest Home service of 1905, which was held in their barn. This was a worship service of thanksgiving, followed by a meal.

Her hobbies have included gardening, quilting, letter writing, and good conversation. She has quilted some 100 quilts and sent countless letters.

The lives she has touched include family, including four generations of descendants, neighbors, friends, an orphan boy, whom she and her husband, Clarence, raised as their own, and a German exchange student, whom they hosted in 1950. She was married to Clarence in 1920 by her grandfather, Elder Jacob H. Longenecker. She says a highlight of her life is her visit to the Holy Land in 1979.

Smith Mountain Lake dedicates building site

The Smith Mountain Lake Community Church, a new church start of the Church of the Brethren near Roanoke, Va., dedicated its newly purchased five-acre site March 19. The property was secured through a partnership of the Community Church and the congregations of Virlina District.

Pastor Jerry Naff and Virlina district executive David K. Shumate spoke at the dedication. The service concluded with a ground-breaking service followed by remarks from John Hamilton, trustee of the Hamilton Trust from which the property was purchased.

Members of the Smith Mountain Lake building committee, chaired by Clinton Wade, said it hopes the congregation will be in its new building by November. Completion of the building will require a $230,000 indebtedness. The fellowship reports having received pledges totaling $103,000 for the project.

Sam Garst

Groundbreaking: *Jerry Naff (pastor), Cami Jones, and Rick Taylor break ground for a new church building. At right is the site's original log cabin, which will be torn down.*

Remembered

Judy Dotterer of Woodbine, Md., died March 20. Judy served as unofficial "host mother" for dozens of On Earth Peace Assembly Peace Academies in the late 1980s and early 1990s. She helped counsel and mentor hundreds of young people who came to the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., to learn about the teachings of Jesus and the Church of the Brethren related to peacemaking. As a recipient of a kidney and pancreas transplant, she was an activist for organ transplantation. She was an active member of the Union Bridge (Md.) Church of the Brethren, and is survived by her husband, Kevin.

Roy Blough, 98, a former Manchester College professor and a member of President Harry Truman's Council of Economic Advisers, died Feb. 25 in Mitchellville, Md. He was a graduate of Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind.

Renewal leader and evangelist *Russell Bixler leading a session at the 1977 Holy Spirit Conference at Bowling Green, Ohio.*

Bixler remembered and honored

Russell Bixler, pastor, renewal leader, and a pioneer in television evangelism, was honored posthumously by the National Religious Broadcasters on Feb. 5 at the group's annual convention in Anaheim, Calif. He died Jan. 30 at age 72.

Co-founder of Cornerstone TeleVision in Pittsburgh with his wife, Norma (Bowman), Bixler was honored with the NRB's William Ayer Distinguished Service Award for 2000. Cornerstone, which is based in Wall, Pa., has become a multi-channel network with four broadcast facilities, a 24-hour satellite channel, and 163 affiliate stations.

For 13 years pastor of the Pittsburgh Church of the Brethren (1959-72), Bixler founded the Greater Pittsburgh Charismatic Conference and, in the 1970s, was a leader in the Holy Spirit renewal movement of the Church of the Brethren. He wrote and edited for eight publishers of Christian books; one of his books, *It Can Happen to Anybody!*, has sold more than 100,000 copies.

Bixler graduated from Bridgewater College in 1947, George Washington University in 1949, and Bethany Theological Seminary in 1959. He graduated cum laude from the seminary. His ministry was profiled in the July 1973 MESSENGER.

Besides his wife of 52 years, Bixler is survived by four children and ten grandchildren. One son, Paul, is a producer/director for Cornerstone TeleVision.—HOWARD ROYER

Highway threatens historic homestead

The homestead of Jacob Ulrich, established in Douglas County, Kan., in 1857 and where the first known Brethren love feast in Kansas was held, is again under threat of destruction.

William C. Quantrill's guerrillas, on Aug. 21, 1863, sacked the anti-slavery town of Lawrence, then set afire the Ulrich homestead, eight miles south of town. This year Dean Carlson, secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation, (KDOT), announced plans to finish the job.

Carlson reaffirmed the state's plan to build a new freeway from Ottawa to Lawrence. The proposed route would cut across the Ulrich farm, now owned by Dr. Nelson McCluggage. McCluggage and his neighbors have retained attorneys to attempt to stop the project.

Jacob Ulrich

He has also brought in instructors from Haskell Native American Indian University, who are investigating signs that their ancestors lived on this land. McCluggage lives in the Ulrich home.

When he purchased the Ulrich farm from Jane Plummer more than 20 years ago, McCluggage promised she could live there as long as she wanted. He took possession only when Plummer, in her nineties, entered a nursing home.

When McCluggage rehabbed the home, he left the house's charred rafters from Quantrill's Raid intact. He also displays the remnants from the original barn. "Not only were members of the Washington Creek Church of the Brethren often in this home, but John Brown as well as Senator Jim Lane were also frequent guests," McCluggage said.

In 1997, when KDOT began discussing widening 20 miles of US Highway 59 to four lanes, the estimated price was $70 million. Now the cost is estimated at $161 million. Construction is estimated to be at least seven years away.—Irene Shull Reynolds

Gary Miller

Leon Kagarise *with only a small part of his newsmaking collection of records and tapes.*

Music man featured in Washington Post

Leon Kagarise has so much love that his little house can't hold it all," begins the long article in the March 9 *Washington Post*. "Kagarise loves music. American music—blues, jazz, gospel, and especially old-time country music. His house is filled with it. Well, not completely filled. There's still a little bit of space left to live in."

Kagarise, a longtime active member of the Long Green Valley Church of the Brethren, Glen Arm, Md., was featured in the *Post* for his collection of hundreds of tapes he recorded at country music shows in the Baltimore area 40 years ago—performances by Johnny Cash, George Jones, Tammy Wynette, and Patsy Cline, among many others. The vintage recordings are now in demand by recording companies, the Library of Congress, and the Country Music Hall of Fame.

The rare recordings sit among some 100,000 records and many old photographs as well. According to the article, people tend to rib him about being a pack rat.

"I'm a rather avid Christian," he told the newspaper. "I belong to the Church of the Brethren. One of the things the Brethren believe in is living the simple life. Anything that takes time away from Jesus is not good."

Then, according to the article, he gazed at the thousands of records piled around him and confessed: "I'm a sinner."

"In Touch" features news of congregations, districts, and individuals. Send story ideas and photos to "In Touch," Messenger, *1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.*

General board meetings address vision, structure

The Church of the Brethren General Board met March 11-13 in Elgin, Ill., using the One Great Hour of Sharing theme, "Gifts of Living Water," based on John 7:38b. In business sessions the board again used the Worshipful Work model of discernment through prayer, silence, sharing, and singing.

Walt Wiltschek

Gilbert Romero, *General Board member and pastor of the Bella Vista congregation in Los Angeles, helped to lead an energetic Sunday morning worship service during General Board meetings in March.*

Among its activities, the board adopted a vision statement to guide its ongoing work: "Of God, for God, with God," developed by a board-appointed committee. (For more on this see "From the Publisher," p. 2).

Another item brought a realignment of the General Board staff structure, reducing the Leadership Team to five members plus the executive director rather than the previous eight plus the executive director. Sitting on the Leadership Team will be directors of Brethren Press, Brethren Service Center, Centralized Resources/Treasurer, Congregational Life Ministries, and Global Mission Partnerships.

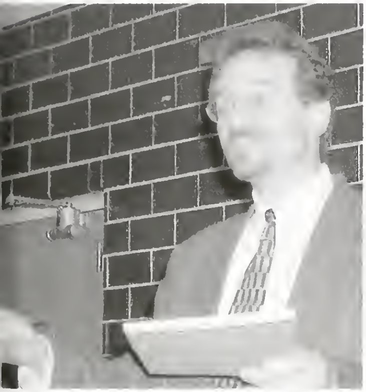
Stated goals of the plan, which involved no job cuts or changes in compensation, included seeking to improve the communication and efficiency of the Leadership Team, working to coordinate the activities of the various offices, and giving a stronger voice to the Brethren Service Center, located in New Windsor, Md.

Of God, for God, with God.

A vision statement *to guide the work of the General Board was adopted.*

Other major actions included:

- Approval of a request from the Committee on Interchurch Relations to have the General Board ask Annual Conference to join the World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence (2001-2010).
- Adoption of a resolution seeking greater ethnic inclusion in church leadership.
- Approval of continued exploration of renewed mission in Brazil, with a recommendation and budget projections to be brought to the board no later than March 2001.
- Approval of a Mission and Ministries Planning Council request to join Eastern Mennonite Missions in sponsoring the three-year placement of Grace Mishler of the Union Center Church of the Brethren (Nappanee, Ind.) at Ho Chi Minh City University in Vietnam, where she will be establishing a social work program.



Walt Wiltschek

Board member David Miller *emcees a banquet program celebrating General Board ministries.*

Brethren join protests against Vieques policy in Puerto Rico

More than 100,000 Puerto Ricans and other protesters marched down a major expressway in San Juan in late February, calling for the US Navy to leave the island of Vieques. US military maneuvers and bombing tests have been held on Vieques for nearly six decades, and protesters are seeking an immediate stop and withdrawal.

The Evangelical Council of Puerto Rico, which represents 10 Protestant denominations including the Church of the Brethren in Puerto Rico, joined with the Catholic Church to coordinate the response. Church of the Brethren General Board executive director Judy Mills Reimer also issued a letter to the Clinton administration stating concern over US actions on Vieques.

A Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation traveled to Puerto Rico in mid-March to work with churches and visit with political and religious leaders and with people on Vieques. CPT worker Cliff Kindy, a member of the Manchester Church of the Brethren (North Manchester, Ind.), and Eric Christiansen of the Franklin Grove (Ill.) Church of the Brethren were among that group. The visit came at the invitation of Brethren pastor Juan Figueroa of the Rio Piedras congregation and other Puerto Rican Brethren.

Disaster and food crisis grants aid needy families

Recent Emergency Disaster Fund grants include:

•$10,000 to support the drought relief efforts of Family Farm Drought Response. The ecumenical project began this past summer to meet needs caused by severe drought in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

•$6,000 to support a tornado recovery project in Haysville, Kan. The project had closed before Christmas, but Emergency Response/Service Ministries received an invitation to return to the area and complete some unmet needs. The project reopened on March 1 and was expected to continue for about two months.

•$25,000 to assist disaster recovery efforts following severe flooding in southern Africa from Cyclone Eline and ongoing torrential rains. The floods have affected Mozambique, South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. Mozambique has been the most severely affected, with at least 300,000 people displaced from their homes and thousands left stranded on rooftops without food and water.

The request comes in response to a Church World Service appeal in which funds will be used to provide blankets for 2,000 people, technical assistance, and support to the relief programs of the Christian Council of Mozambique.

The Global Food Crisis Fund gave $42,676 in February to provide small livestock to more than 800 women in dozens of communities in southern Honduras, part of a continuing project after a successful pilot program in El Estribo.

David Radcliff

800 Honduran women *received livestock through the Global Food Crisis Fund in February.*

Personnel changes

Tom Hurst resigned as executive director of On Earth Peace Assembly effective March 17, following a decade of service with the organization.

•**Ron and Harriet Finney** have resigned effective Sept. 30 as co-coordinators of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. A search for a replacement is under way. The Finneys continue in their positions as co-executives of the South/Central Indiana District.

•**Donald R. Booz**, currently pastor of the McPherson (Kan.) congregation, will become district executive of Mid-Atlantic District effective June 15.

•**Lester Boleyn** began April 1 as a member of the General Board's Area 3 Congregational Life Team. Boleyn will work out of the Cumberland, Md., area in West Marva District.

•**Greg Laszakovits** has been named full-time coordinator of the Church of the Brethren Washington Office. He began on April 1.

•**Martha R. Beach** began as half-time district executive for Atlantic Southeast on March 20.

•**Tim Van Meter**, director of research for the Youth Theological Initiative at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, will become the first director of Bethany Theological Seminary's new Institute for Ministry with Young and Young Adults, effective Aug. 1.

Walt Wiltschek

Tutu in Elizabethtown: *Roger Ingold, a member of the Spring Creek congregation, Hershey, Pa., who traveled with Archbishop Desmond Tutu in South Africa, reunited with him during Tutu's visit to Elizabethtown College.*

Tutu brings reconciliation message to Elizabethtown

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a major figure in South Africa's struggle against apartheid, delivered a stirring speech of forgiveness and reconciliation to highlight Elizabethtown (Pa.) College's year-long centennial celebration.

Tutu spoke March 17 to a full house of about 3,000 people in Thompson Gymnasium following spiritual numbers from the Elizabethtown College Concert Choir and introductory remarks from president Theodore Long. With a mix of somber history, lively stories, and humor, Tutu quickly captivated the audience.

At one point, Tutu laughingly encouraged the entire group of "shy and reserved Americans" to join in frenzied applause and celebration for the success achieved by all those who helped topple apartheid. He finished his talk with a final plea to continue that work, outlining his dreams of a world with "more compassion, caring, laughter, and sharing."

"I have no one except you, and you, and you to realize my dream," he said, pointing to spots in the crowd. "Will you help me, please?"

Ethnic-religious violence affects EYN churches

Three members of the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria, the Church of the Brethren's large sister congregation in Nigeria, were killed in outbreaks of ethnic-religious violence in Kaduna province in late February.

An EYN report identified the victims as the Rev. Iyasco Taru, pastor of the Badarwa congregation; Musa Garba, a member of the Badarwa church; and John Danfulani, also a member at Badarwa. Two members of the Narayi church were seriously injured.

More than 300 people were reported killed in the fighting between Christians and Muslims in Kaduna. Retaliatory violence in the southern city of Aba killed at least 200 more, according to news reports. Property damage was also widespread, with the large Badarwa EYN church building and an old church building there among those burned. Numerous individual EYN members also lost homes and/or business properties.

The violence occurred as Christians were protesting Muslim attempts to have Islamic "shari'a" law instituted in Kaduna, a multi-religious state where Muslims are not in the majority, according to EYN leader Bitrus Debki.

A statement by EYN leadership responded to the situation, saying, "We hereby condemn in very strong terms the recent attack meted out on innocent Christians in Kaduna metropolis and its environs while on peaceful demonstration to Government House to express their feeling as regards the imposition of shari'a on them."

Media reports in the weeks following the initial conflict identified additional pockets of violence in the major city of Lagos and in the northwestern part of the country.

The General Board took time at its spring meeting to pray for the situation in Nigeria.

ABC and OEPA experience financial growing pains

The Association of Brethren Caregivers reports that 1999 ended about as expected from a financial perspective. ABC had projected a deficit of more than $100,000 when the 1999 budget was prepared, and pre-audit figures for the year showed an actual deficit of $117,862. The deficit was paid from organization reserves.

On Earth Peace Assembly, which was also spun off from the General Board and then approved as a separate Annual Conference agency along with ABC in 1998, showed a similar pre-audit deficit for 1999, at $96,746. OEPA used about $73,000 of endowment gain to cover the extra program expenditures.

When ABC became an independent organization, the board implemented a transition plan projecting three years of deficit budgets while the denomination adjusted to its new organizational structure and a new way of financially supporting the denominational agencies.

ABC's reserves will cover the deficits, with the expectation that the organization's operations will return to a financial balance by the end of 2001. At the end of 1999, the second of the three years, ABC was within the parameters of its transition plan.

ABC's total revenue for 1999 was $522,248. Congregational support was $54,037 from 164 congregations in 1999, an increase from the 1998 total of $15,236 from 57 congregations. Support from individuals in 1999 was $59,545 compared to the 1998 total of $57,870.

"These are challenging times for ABC. Congregations are still learning about ABC and the other organizations within the new denominational structure," said ABC executive director Steve Mason. "As this new understanding is made in congregations, they will decide whether and how to support the denominational agencies. We believe this support will be in measure to the value placed on the services of these organizations. Once ABC's support base is established, we will adjust our programs accordingly, if necessary."

OEPA showed a total pre-audit income of $229,362 for the year, including $59,319 of general gift income from individuals and $40,735 from congregations.

Churches need to understand population "browning"

Anabaptists wanting to establish new congregations in the 21st century will be successful only if they increase awareness of the multicultural, diversifying, and "browning" population in North America.

That's the message about 40 practitioners and scholars heard at the third annual Anabaptist Evangelism Council, held at a snowbound Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind., Feb. 19-20.

"We are a browning nation," said researcher Rocky Kidd, director of Chicago Opportunity for Peace in Action, whose study of 17 multicultural churches showed a rapid shift in urban centers toward a polyglot of brown, yellow, black, white, and mestizo (mixed). "And those who do not live in the urban centers are greatly influenced by an omnipresent urban popular culture, piped into the American consciousness via the entertainment/media world."

The council was sponsored by New Life Ministries, a partnership in outreach of both branches of the merging Mennonite groups, the Church of the Brethren, The Brethren Church (Ashland, Ohio) and two parachurch organizations: Shalom Foundation of Harrisonburg, Va., and Christian Community of Fort Wayne, Ind.

Next year's council will be held at the Church of the Brethren offices in Elgin, Ill., expanding to a three-day event, Feb. 16-18. The 2001 theme will center on church planting.

Youth team, young adults prepare for summer service

The 2000 Youth Peace Travel Team is made up of Marshall Camden of Virginia Beach, Va.; Daniel Royer of Trotwood, Ohio; Myra Martin-Adkins of Washington, D.C.; Meghan Sheller of Eldora, Iowa; and Pete Dobberstein of Brookville, Ohio.

The team, sponsored by the General Board's Youth/Young Adult and Brethren Witness offices, Outdoor Ministries Association, and On Earth Peace Assembly, annually visits and provides leadership for junior and senior high camps in various regions of the country. It will start with an orientation in mid-June before heading out to the camps in the East this year.

Thirteen young adults, meanwhile, have registered to be part of this year's Ministry Summer Service program, a cooperative effort of the General Board's Youth/Young Adult and Ministry offices. The program offers opportunities to explore church vocations through 10-week placements under a mentor in congregations or other settings.

This year's orientation will occur June 2-9 at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Ind., with mentors and project sites in six states, from Pennsylvania and Delaware to California. Volunteers receive food, housing, and a $45-per-month stipend from the congregation, plus an available tuition grant of $2,000 for college students.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS

FOR THE LOVE OF EMILY

A strong but humble leader, Moderator Emily Mumma has been called a "servant of grace."

BY FLETCHER FARRAR

WORDS FROM THE MODERATOR

On evangelism: "For me evangelism is important, but without discipleship it's empty. Which brings me back to love. I don't think evangelism is always done in love. It's sometimes done with shaming or guilt or a superior attitude, rather than a deep love for the person.

"We have to let people have the freedom to say no. That's what love can do. Love gives people the liberty to turn us down, even to persecute us. But their actions are not going to determine how we relate to them. That's the kind of discipleship that has meaning for evangelism."

When Emily Mumma starts throwing little balls made of yarn around the august boardroom of the Church of the Brethren offices in Elgin, one wonders if the pressures of the office of moderator have become too much for her. As she empties another shopping bag of the balls she calls "fuzzies," and throws them one by one to General Board members engaged in the serious business of the church, one sniffs that this is unconventional behavior, to say the least.

Then one gets into it. Even the most dour in the group pick up a yarn ball and hurl it gleefully to, or at, somebody. The room is soon filled with laughter and surprise.

"My vision is to radiate the joy that comes from a giving, loving spirit," she says in an interview. "When I look out over a congregation I often see such sad faces. I would like to see some happy faces."

Like Johnny Appleseed sowing gratitude for the Lord's goodness, Mumma takes her fuzzies with her on her travels across the denomination, disrupting many a district conference and other church meetings with her unconventional seeds of love.

The yarn balls are made by Carol Miller, a member of the Hollidaysburg, Pa., congregation, which Mumma pastors. Baptized recently, Miller wanted to serve others, but she is disabled by a painful neurological disorder. In her home she began to make the fuzzies and give them away so people would feel loved and appreciated. She began giving them, not only on birthdays and anniversaries, but on no occasion in particular, and not only to friends, but also to strangers. They brought a smile every time.

She caught a vision of spreading God's love with abandon, and decided to send fuzzies with her pastor everywhere she goes as moderator. With some help, Miller has made more than 5,000 fuzzies already. "I pack each one with God's love," she says.

They tie in well with the moderator's message of love, expressed in the Annual Conference theme, "Love as I have loved you," from John 15:12. Mumma relates that when she announced the love theme, a prominent church leader told her it was too sentimental and superficial. That only strengthened her resolve to give the theme enough substance to make it profound.

"Love is foundational," she says. "It is at the center of what it means to be a follower of Christ. Without love, faith is very shallow. Service becomes burdensome instead of being a joy. Complainers and murmurers are people who have not learned to either give or receive love. Unless love is at the core of our programs and plans, they aren't going to fly."

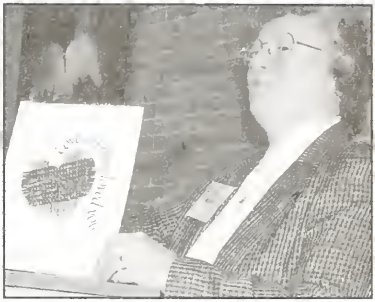
There is little about this kind of love that could be called merely sentimental. "Love is hard work," she says. "It's this kind of love that took Jesus Christ to the cross. There is nothing harder than practicing Christlike love. It means I won't allow myself to be so easily hurt. I won't take offense so easily; I won't be defensive so quickly. I will look for the good in the other in the midst of disagreement."

The capacity to love, and to receive love, doesn't come all at once but has to be cultivated and nurtured. "It is a lifelong journey," she says.

Mumma's journey began in Ohio, where she

AVE LOVED YOU.

Walt Wiltschek



was born during the Depression. She grew up helping her parents, Rebert and Edna Metzger, on the family farm, located between New Carlisle and Springfield. The family attended the Donnels Creek Church of the Brethren, Southern Ohio District.

After high school she decided not to go to college, but opted for the "University of Life Experience" instead. That coursework began with Brethren Volunteer Service when she became a member of Unit 11. She was assigned to help young Chinese war brides adapt to life in inner-city Chicago. Never having ridden a city bus before, she traveled all over the urban area helping mothers learn to care for babies and shop for groceries. She helped teach a Sunday school class for Chinese immigrants at Chicago's First Church of the Brethren.

In 1952 she married fellow BVSer Luke Mumma, and they settled in Harrisburg, Pa., his hometown. From 1960 to 1968 they owned and operated together a home appliance repair business. He did the repair work while she ran the office. She was also raising two children, Samuel and Sara. Active in the Harrisburg First congregation, she taught the first Sunday school class organized for black children there.

In 1968 the family moved to Florida for the sake of the children's health, and settled in St. Petersburg, where her parents lived. Luke became a plumber, while she stayed home to be available to her children, then in junior high and high school. "All I wanted was to be a good wife, a good mother, and a good homemaker," she recalls. She went to night classes to learn to sew and cook. And she made a big garden each year, selling enough to pay the garden's expenses, with the rest of the produce going to family and friends.

Around 1970 she was called to represent her home congregation, First Church, St. Petersburg, on the district board. "From that time on, there was no time I wasn't involved heavily in district and denominational work," she says. She was district moderator in 1978, served on Standing Committee, and was a member of the General Board from 1982 to 1986.

She received training in conflict management and mediation through seminars, including work with Brethren mediator Barbara Daté in 1986. This equipped her for volunteer assignments in conflict resolution, as well as other district responsibilities, at the request of five different Florida district executives, who served part time.

"I didn't have a title then," says Mumma. "I wasn't ordained or even licensed. But titles sometimes create barriers. People trusted me more because I didn't have a title. I was just a friend."

Having taken the Three-year Reading Course, she was finally licensed to the ministry in 1988. In 1990 she served three months as interim pastor for her home congregation, St. Petersburg. In 1993, during Annual Conference in Indianapolis, the executive of Middle Pennsylvania District, Randy Yoder, asked her to consider an interim pastor assignment in Hollidaysburg, Pa. She agreed, and with her husband moved that fall to Pennsylvania, expecting to be there only temporarily. She was ordained that year, and, in August 1994, the Hollidaysburg congregation called her to be its regular pastor. She has been in that position ever since.

Rita Murphy, the church's part-time secretary, says Emily Mumma is the "most

WORDS FROM THE MODERATOR

On simple living: "In my own life it has been amazing how often I don't need what I thought I needed. By no means am I hurting because of what I've given up. But I am aware that some things that most people consider necessities I don't. I'm also aware that there are things I consider necessities that plenty of people in the world don't have."

Family time in the North Carolina mountains, 1995: *At left are grandchildren Ilana and Kialha Mumma, standing in front of their parents, Samuel and Debbie Mumma, of Dade City, Fla. Center is Emily Mumma, with her husband, Luke, in back. At right are grandchildren Joshua and Jessica McInnis, standing in front of their parents, Sara Mumma McInnis and Ron McInnis, of Cape Coral, Fla.*

WORDS FROM THE MODERATOR

On stewardship: "I sometimes hear people say if we get more people in our church we can get a bigger budget. I think Jesus must weep when he hears that kind of stuff. I feel that if the heart is right the money will be there.

"That doesn't mean we don't have to talk about stewardship. Everything I have is a gift from God. Out of love I owe God and want to give to God. To write out that check to the church becomes a joy, not a burden."

On women in leadership: "When people ask, 'How does it feel to be a woman moderator?' I've said I look at 'call' first as a person, and I happen to be a woman. I don't feel like, 'Look at me I'm a woman doing this.' It's me doing this. I also happen to be a woman. I don't deny that, but I don't flaunt that.

"I think denominational leaders are more in tune with having women in ministry than congregations are. There is a lot of work to be done at the congregational level to get them to see the place of women in leadership."

detail-oriented person I have ever met," sending birthday and anniversary greetings to everyone in the congregation, even during her term as moderator. "She recognizes the gifts in each person and calls upon the use of the gifts," Murphy says. "She allows many people to feel successful, not overburdening anyone with a task they would not be good at."

Randy Yoder, Mumma's district executive, calls her a "servant of grace."

"She is a very kind and humble person who cares about people," he says. "She particularly has a heart for the 'little' people—those who are powerless and often deprived of a voice or the sharing of their gifts and abilities. For instance, she as a pastor has stood firm in several instances when justice was called for."

Though often reluctant to be cast into leadership positions, Mumma accepts each call as it comes along, when she is convinced it is God's call. On finally accepting the title of pastor, she reflects: "As painful as it is to be away from my children and grandchildren in Florida, I have an inner joy that I have never known before."

The same reluctance came to her when she was asked to consider allowing her name to be placed on the ballot for moderator, the highest office of the Church of the Brethren. "At first I said I'm not interested at all," she said. "Anything like that just scares the heck out of me. I don't like being out front. I'd rather be behind the scenes working with a team. Speaking before people has never been easy for me."

But she gradually became convinced, first by a representative of the Annual Conference nominating committee and then by the unanimous support of her congregation's executive committee, that this was another true call which she must accept out of obedience to Christ.

Noting that the moderator is asked to visit as many districts and attend as many district and denominational events as possible, "I was concerned that at my age I might not have the physical, emotional, and mental energy to keep up the fast pace."

She asked God for an image to carry her through, and it was manna, the food God provided the children of Israel in the desert, just enough for the day at hand. "It's like God was saying, 'Emily, I'm going to give you manna in the form of strength and energy. You need to trust me. But there's not going to be any extra. When I'm feeling pushed, I hear God saying, 'Are you going to wait for my manna?' God does supply the need.

"I have gone from being very fearful to finding a delight in being moderator. That's God's gift, not what I could do. I'm enjoying it, though there are still some times I'm uneasy at the prospect of the Conference business session, and all those people. As long as I can keep my eyes on Jesus, then I'm okay. But when I think about all the wonderful things that past moderators have done, sometimes I get caught. I have to remember that God didn't call me to be like anyone else. He called me to be who I am. It's been a wonderful faith walk."

By March this year, Mumma had already traveled more than 53,000 miles visiting districts and churches as moderator, and faced her heaviest travel season as Annual Conference approaches.

"I've been surprised by the care that I find out there," she says. "I find care and support for me, but also a deep caring for the church. Even when people have questions, or disagree with a General Board program, I sense a deep level of caring." She also found a commitment to prayer support for the denomination, for her congregation, and for her work as moderator.

Though she has not taken a leave of absence from her congregation of about 150 members, the church has contracted with a retired pastor to fill the pulpit during her frequent Sunday absences, a temporary measure that has been working well. Mumma often credits the support of her congregation for helping to make her term as moderator successful.

As denominational leader, she said most of

A PREVIEW OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

For five days this summer, Kansas City, Mo., will be home to several thousand Brethren coming together for the 2000 Annual Conference at the city's Bartle Hall convention complex. Here's what you can expect:

The format. After many years of running from Tuesday to Sunday, Conference switches to a shorter, Saturday-to-Wednesday format this year. A new feature will be the "Brethren Ministries LIVE" report, building on the General Board Live report of years past, but now including all five Annual Conference agencies.

The worship. A series of speakers will build on the theme by addressing different aspects of Godlike love, according to Mumma, who will deliver the Saturday evening message. Other speakers are Joel Nogle, pastor of the Gettysburg, Pa., church, Belita Mitchell of the Imperial Heights church in Los Angeles, and ecumenical guests Emanuel Cleaver and Thomas Troeger.

The business. This year's agenda has grown large, with 10 items of business requiring action, in addition to the usual series of reports, elections, and other items. Delegates will address three major unfinished business items—papers on congregational structure, on the process for calling denominational leadership, and on caring for the poor—plus hear an update on a study of Brethren and litigation. The congregational structure and denominational leadership papers can be viewed at the Annual Conference section of the www.brethren.org website.

New business includes five queries plus a General Board request for Conference to endorse the World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence. The queries focus on guidelines for district employees, the role and relationship of district executives to the Church of the Brethren organizational structure, two on discipleship and reconciliation polity, and one on personal evangelism and church growth.—WALT WILTSCHEK

---

the complaints and questions she receives in letters and on her travels relate to the need for clarification about connections. What's the relationship of Annual Conference to General Board? What's the meaning of all these other agencies?

"I think there are people who care and have not understood," she says. "They have not understood the reason for redesign." As Mumma explains patiently the history and rationale for the organizational changes of recent years, she does not sense a continuing anger or discontent with denominational governance.

"I perceive a higher level of trust in the General Board right now than I have seen in a number of years," she says. "I think the communication is better. I think people's questions are being answered, and answered more promptly."

The moderator who Annual Conference delegates will encounter in Kansas City is not one who comes with a lot of plans and programs for the church. "I basically share out of my heart," she says.

To the business agenda she brings a commitment to discerning God's will. She hopes the church will be guided "less by the ways of the world and more by the leading of God's spirit." She adds, "I'm not denying that we can learn from the world. But I don't think we have to mirror the world. If we're open to God's leading, we'll be on the leading edge, rather than bringing up the tail."

After Annual Conference, this spirited but reluctant leader will be more than happy to get back to her garden, her husband, and her congregation in Pennsylvania. But until then she can be expected to plunge faithfully into the work God has called her to do.

"If I'm listening carefully, and trust in God, I think I'll be okay."

The journey from here
A report on the state of the church

Judy Mills Reimer
Executive Director, General Board

Messenger Dinner
5 pm, Sunday, July 16
Kansas City

Join Messenger for a relaxing dinner, then hear the executive director of the General Board deliver her "State of the Church" address, a report on where we are and where we're going as a denomination at the beginning of the new millennium. Program concludes in time for the evening business session.

Please order tickets in advance. There may be no on-site ticket sales.
Call the Annual Conference office at 800-323-8039 to order.

WHEN THE BIBLE CRASHED INTO SUDAN

BY ESTHER FRANTZ BOLEYN

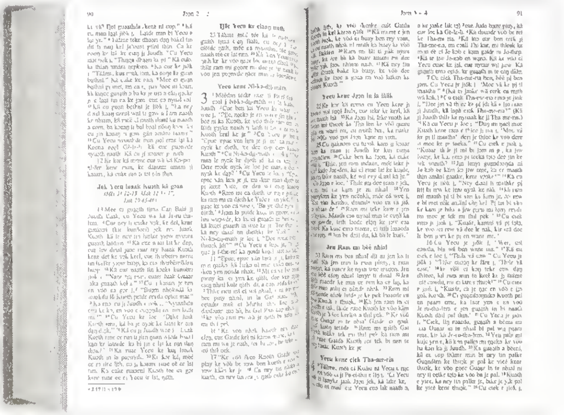
When you cook food, put it into a bowl, carry it away, and drop the bowl, which breaks, does the food fall out?"

This question was asked by Rev. Peter Riet Machar at a special Jan. 9 worship service in Mading, southern Sudan. The answers from the women were unanimous. "Yes, of course!"

"Yesterday," Rev. Peter continued, "a bowl dropped out of the sky, broke apart, but the food didn't fall out."

Rev. Peter, vice moderator for the Presbyterian Church in Sudan for south Sudan, was reminding them of the previous day's events, when the airplane bringing the guests for the launching of the Nuer-language Bible crashed upon landing in Mading.

He preached the sermon that preceded the launching ceremony, speaking about the miracles that were happening in that place. The 800-plus people sitting in the hot sun listened attentively, although most of them had seen the first miracle happen right in front of them. They never expected anyone to crawl out of the airplane, let alone to have everyone get out with no injuries.



For God so loved every part of the world: The Nuer Bible, turned to John 3:16.

The trip from Nairobi, Kenya, began at 5:30 a.m. on Jan. 8. We were flying on Antinov 28, a small Russian-made airplane. From Nairobi to Lokichogio, on the border of Sudan, all went well. We landed, got off to sign out at Kenyan immigration, and boarded the same plane for the two-hour flight to Mading.

Those on the plane included Rev. Peter, the executive secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Sudan, three Presbyterian missionaries, three Church of the Brethren representatives (my husband, Lester, and I, and videographer David Sollenberger), the United Bible Societies consultant, and the whole family of our translator, Tut Wan Yoa, although he was still in Lokichokio, waiting for the second plane to Mading.

We were now having the launching ceremony at Mading because only three days earlier a rebel commander had threatened that his soldiers would arrest everyone on the plane if he weren't allowed to travel on the plane to Akobo, the original site for the launching service. The Presbyterian Church in Sudan leaders decided that this was a religious event, not a political or war-related one, so they changed the Bible-launching site to Mading instead.

At the airstrip a limp flag indicated no wind. But just seconds before the wheels touched the ground, a strong crosswind hit the plane and caused it to roll from side to side. It hit the ground with a bang on the right wheel, which collapsed, causing the plane to careen out of control and veer off the airstrip to the right.

The pilot skillfully neutralized the engines and slowed the plane down considerably before, skidding sideways, the left wing hit a high grass fence surrounding a compound. The impact broke off that wing at the engine, and then the whole thing turned upside-down. All 22 passengers and the two pilots were hanging from their seatbelts looking down.

The pilot was able to kick out his door and went around the outside trying doors, but to no avail. He then jumped up on top and, with Nuer men helping, was able to rip open the tail loading door. Half the passengers exited out that opening, and the other half went forward to the pilot's door. In my daze I crawled through the other pilot's window, which had broken out, giving me the worst

(continued on p. 19)

GOD'S WORD IN NUER

Against all odds, a decade-long project bears fruit in Sudan.

NUER BIBLE CL053P
BLUE
24 COPIES
BOOKS KEEP DRY
IRS
NAIROBI VIA MOMBASA
C/NO.

Only three boxes of Nuer Bibles made it to Mading, but they were quickly examined by people eager to see and read the Word in their own language.

It was mid-January, and the Nuer were about to receive a complete Bible in their own language for the first time. The worship service had moved outdoors since the crowd of nearly 900 wouldn't fit in Mading's small sanctuary, near the Ethiopian border. An hour of worship moved into another two and a half hours of ceremony and celebration for the launching of the Bible.

Then the moment came.

"They broke out in spontaneous singing, cheering, and drumming," said Lester Boleyn, who worked on the translation project for a decade along with his wife, Esther. "It was a spontaneous expression of joy."

Photos by David Sollenberger
Text by Walt Wiltschek
Produced by Howard Royer

Not even a crosswind could deter the long-awaited launch celebration.

THE MANY MIRACLES OF MADING

Children and others in the village of Mading joined in worship

Everything seemed to be going wrong en route to the Bible launching service. Political maneuvering in Sudan forced a change of site from Akobo to the village of Mading, on three days' notice. Then the plane carrying Church of the Brethren representatives Lester and Esther Boleyn and David Sollenberger and 21 others crashed and flipped upon landing in a crosswind.

Then, everything went right.

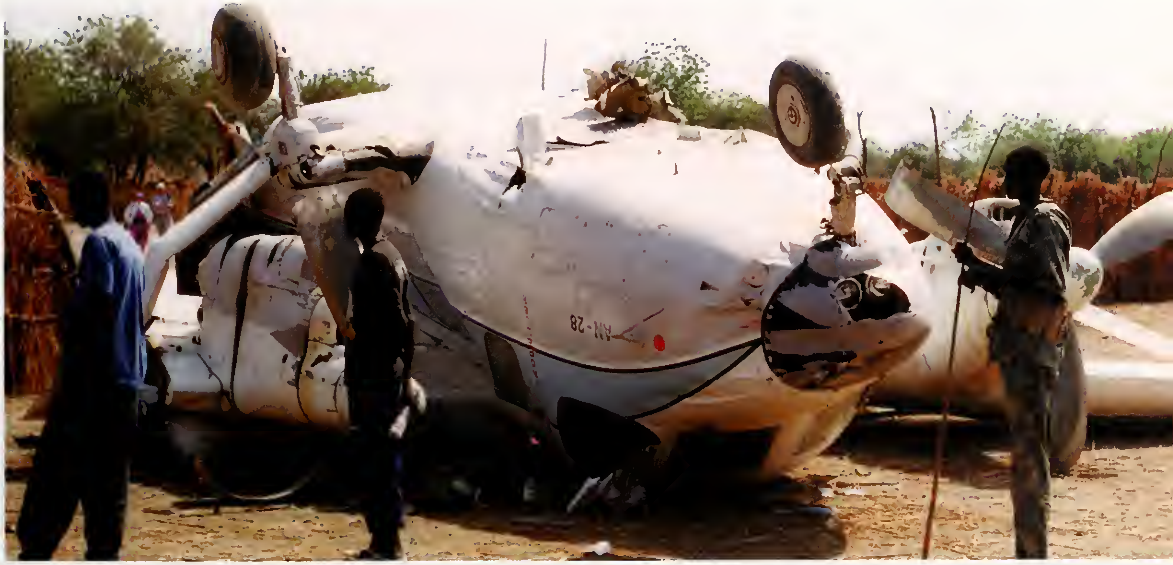
- Everyone on board the plane survived with nothing more than a scratch or two.
- Thrust into the spotlight on short notice, Mading proved a welcoming and energetic place for the service. A large turnout embraced the three boxes of Bibles able to be shipped there.
- And perhaps the greatest miracle of all: A new translation of the Bible that itself emerged from a land plagued by war, uprooted populations, and drought. It's believed to be the first complete Bible to be printed in any Sudanese ethnic language.

Sudanese women expressed the joy of the occasion through dancing.

life and the power of God in protecting the travelers and delivering the Bibles.

Atop the flipped wing, church leaders praise God.

An unexpected miracle occurred when all 24 passengers and crew escaped unhurt from a plane that crashed upon landing in Mading.



Lester Boleyn and Tut Wan Yoa, two of the key figures in the Nuer translation project, came together again to officially "launch" the new Bible.

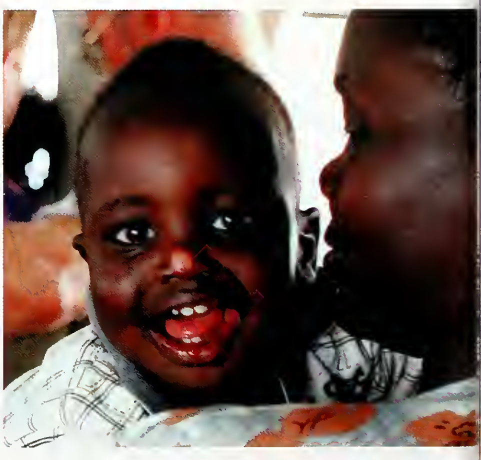
END OR BEGINNING?

A New Testament in the Nuer language, the largest language group in southern Sudan, had existed since the late '60s. The Bible launched in January, however, presented the first full translation of all 66 books. The Bibles were printed in South Korea after years of painstaking work by the Sudan Bible Society, translating the Old Testament and revising the New Testament materials.

The copies transported to Mading were distributed to evangelists, pastors, and other church leaders. Meanwhile, many more boxes were sent to other locations for simultaneous celebrations.

People immediately immersed themselves in the new text, hungrily reading passages in their own tongue for the first time. Sollenberger shared a comment from translator Tut Wan Yoa, who worked with the Boleyns: "Finally we can read the message in Nuer."

For Nuers growing up, a Bible in their own tongue.



> The Nuer Christians had a simple explanation for the crash. The devil had now tried two times to stop the launching of the Bible. But they said, "God is mightier than Satan. God took charge. **Nothing could prevent the bringing of his Word to the people."**

(continued from p. 14)

injury of all the passengers—a cut on the foot.

Even though another planeload of people was to land three hours later, the Nuers didn't wait to begin worshiping. The pastor took all of us who had been on the plane over to the church compound, where the praying and praising immediately began. This was immediate therapy.

Later in the day, many hundreds of people gathered around the plane, using its wing as a platform for speakers. Several people told stories of how they were each affected by the crash. This type of sharing happened again Sunday evening around the plane, and on Monday in the church.

The Nuer Christians had a simple explanation for the crash. The devil had now tried two times to stop the launching of the Bible. Satan had forced the change in venue, and now sent a crosswind to crash the plane. But they said, "God is mightier than Satan. God took charge. Nothing could prevent the bringing of his Word to the people." Lester's evaluation to the assembled people was, "God intended this to be a time of celebration, not of mourning."

After the celebration of life on Saturday, the doubling of the miracle began on Sunday with the official launching ceremony for the Nuer Bible. The masses of people had all been assembling at the original site, Akobo. The supplies had been sent there earlier, the choirs had practiced, and there were plenty of drummers.

When the site was changed, there was no way those people could travel to Mading. The people in attendance at Mading were all locals. Our celebration was quite spontaneous. It had no rehearsed singing or praying. We were all conscious of God's great power and mercy.

The ceremony took two hours, following a one-hour worship service. It included preaching, singing, praying, and the handing of the official Bible to the vice moderator by the United Bible Societies' representative, Dr. Jan Sterk. Tut Wan, who had been the only consistent translator with the project we worked on for 11 years, interpreted the Nuer words into English and English into Nuer.

Because of the change of venue, we had only three 24-Bible cartons to distribute. But those 72 Bibles were sufficient for distribution to pastors, evangelists, and women church leaders.

On the two days preceding the Mading events, chartered flights were taking loads of Bibles into other villages through Upper Nile Province where the Nuers live. Tut Wan had instructed everyone to keep the cartons unopened until Sunday morning. Every church was to have a celebration and then open the cartons and distribute the Bibles. This also took place in Khartoum and in refugee camps outside Sudan.

The people said that had Satan been successful in stopping the launching, Christianity among the Nuers would have had a terrible setback. Marginal followers might have said, "The Christians teach that they have a loving God. Their God didn't even save that planeload of 24 people! And they were his faithful leaders. Why would we want to follow a God like that?"

But now, with the saving of the people on the plane, the church leaders expect an increase in people turning away from traditional gods and turning toward Christ and the church.

The leaders of the Presbyterian Church in Sudan, which will celebrate 100 years of mission there in 2002, also expect that many of their own evangelists and pastors will now want to attend the Mobile Bible School that has begun at Mading. They will see Mading as a place blessed by God.

For the past 100 years, all preaching has been done by mostly illiterate evangelists who listened closely to the preaching of the Word by missionaries or a very few educated Nuer church leaders. They, in turn, went out to the villages and repeated the sermons they had heard preached.

Over the years, many of these leaders have been taught to read the Nuer language; now they will have the Bible to read. They will be able to stand before their congregations and read the Word of God, no longer needing to rely on memory to proclaim the story of the Bible.

The masses of Nuer still are illiterate, but now they will be able to hear the Word of God read to them. And many are wanting to learn to read, so now they will be able to have their own Bible and read it for themselves.

Esther Boleyn is a retired schoolteacher recently moved to Cumberland, Md., where she plans to work as "a helpmate to my husband," Lester Boleyn, who begins this month as a full-time Congregational Life Team member. From 1988 to 1998 she lived in Nairobi, Kenya, where she was employed by the General Board's office of Global Mission Partnerships as editor and keyboarder for the Nuer Bible project. She said she is ready to leave her African language skills behind and "learn the new language of the mountains."

HUNDREDS OF BRETHREN AND MENNONITES CAME HUNGRY FOR DEEPER SPIRITUAL LIVES.

Ken Bomberger

GROWING THE SPIRIT

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES TRAINING AND A BALANCED DIET

BY FLETCHER FARRAR

R**ichard Foster**'s **vision** that "a great new gathering of the people of God is occurring in our day" seemed to come to life as people streamed into Leffler Chapel at Elizabethtown College March 10. There were 800 attending this conference on spiritual growth—it had sold out in a few days while another 150 who tried to register didn't get in. Organizers said the response reflects a new hunger by serious Christians for spiritual development opportunities.

Foster, the Quaker evangelist and author, told the gathering it's important for Christians who want to grow in discipleship and Christlikeness to get together to encourage each other, because not all who go to church share that agenda. That began two days of instruction on how to develop a balanced spiritual life, rooted and grounded in scripture, prayer, and the traditions of the church.

Balance also described the lively singing, which included both new "praise" songs and substantial hymn classics. The conference attracted both conservative and liberal Brethren, charismatics and peace activists. Recognizing that spiritual growth unites diverse interests, Foster quoted John Wesley: "If your heart beats with my heart in love and loyalty to Jesus Christ, take my hand."

This was the Renovaré Regional Conference on Spiritual Renewal, sponsored by Atlantic Northeast District Church of the Brethren. The conference grew out of two years of prayer and planning by the district's Spiritual Renewal Team, led by David Young, interim pastor of the Hatfield (Pa.) Church of the Brethren. About

Ken Bomberger

Richard Foster prayed with persons *who came forward at the close of a session. "I am not playing with your emotions," he said. "We wait for the work of the Spirit of God."*

half those attending were from 50 area Church of the Brethren congregations, and the other half were Mennonites from the area.

Renovaré, Latin for "to renew," is the organization founded by Foster to invigorate churches by helping their members grow spiritually through personal training and participation in small groups known as Spiritual Formation Groups. The twin strategy, centered in church life, avoids the problems of unbridled freedom and isolated effort at spiritual growth. Several Church of the Brethren pastors at the event said they appreciated Foster's orthodox approach to spiritual growth, with its emphasis on both study and community as keys to development.

"Our faith needs a structure, a shape and an outline to it," Foster said. The structure can be built around the 12 disciplines outlined in his popular 1988 book, *Celebration of Discipline*, among them prayer, solitude, study, simplicity, fasting, service. He urges Christians to become, like Paul, "athletes for God" by training for the spiritual life.

Like a trainer urging a novice to exercise, he offered two suggestions. The first: *Begin small.* "There is a progression in the spiritual life," Foster said, and we can't all start with healing miracles. The second suggestion: *Begin*. Start in humility where you are, he said. "The Lord is never hard to find."

Foster alternated lectures with Emilie Griffin, a Roman Catholic and a Latin buff whose scholarly reserve provided a nice counterpoint to Foster's more boisterous style. She gave a moving description of her own "experience of grace" while living the fast life of a young advertising executive in New York City, which she thought at first was "the New Jerusalem." She began to study the Bible, and she found truth through theater and films. "The Lord speaks to us through things we love." She read C. S. Lewis' *Surprised by Joy*, and there found, as Lewis did, that many admirable people live the virtuous life "with honor, courtesy, and gentleness."

Eventually she began to surrender her cool pride. "I did not want to be one who would not give in to the Lord because it was not a contemporary thing to do." After her surrender, she learned that with some effort on her part, the Holy Spirit would do much of the work of spiritual growth. "We will be carried along by the wings of grace."

Both Foster and Griffin emphasized that God becomes a partner in our growth in godliness. While growth requires effort, making that effort isn't the same as striving to earn God's favor. The effort at spiritual growth merely puts Christians in a place to joyfully surrender to the Holy Spirit, in which "the soul, light as a feather, fluid as water, innocent as a child, responds to every movement of grace like a floating balloon." The quotation, from Jean-Pierre de Caussade in *The Sacrament of the Present Moment*, was used several times during the conference.

The core of the Renovaré approach to spiritual development is in the six traditions, or streams, of Christian faith and witness, which Foster describes in detail in his recent book, *Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christian Faith* (HarperSanFrancisco). By learning about and training in each of the traditions, Christians will have a balanced approach toward spiritual development. And, though he didn't emphasize it, they will learn to respect traditions which their church does not emphasize.

For example, he urged those who emphasize the "social justice" tradition to seek balance by learning more about the "charismatic" tradition. "There is no such thing as a non-charismatic Christian," Foster said. All Christians are given spiritual gifts, or powers, to do the work of God. "If you are in Christ it is a life in the spirit," he told the conference.

In his book, Foster elaborates on the gains to be had from embracing the charismatic tradition—the "Spirit-empowered life." They include providing a corrective to "our impulse to domesticate God," as well as "a rebuke to our anemic practice" of business-as-usual religion.

Among the potential perils of the charismatic tradition, he adds, is that signs and wonders will be trivialized into "magic religion." He writes, "We often focus on the gift rather than the Giver." Another peril is rejecting the rational and the intellectual. "We love God with both mind and heart." And he warns against the danger of falling for "highly speculative end-time scenarios that lack theological foundation."

RICHARD FOSTER: "OUR FAITH NEEDS A STRUCTURE, A SHAPE AND AN OUTLINE TO IT."

Ken Bomberger

Each of six spiritual traditions was explained briefly at the conference, and explained more fully in Renovaré literature. They are:

- **Contemplative.** The "prayer-filled life" focuses on intimacy with God and depth of spirituality. This spiritual dimension addresses the longing for a deeper, more vital Christian experience.
- **Holiness.** The "virtuous life" focuses upon personal moral transformation and the power to develop "holy habits." This spiritual dimension addresses the erosion of moral fiber in personal and social life.
- **Charismatic.** The "spirit-empowered life" focuses on the charisms of the Spirit and worship. This spiritual dimension addresses the yearning for the immediacy of God's presence among his people.
- **Social justice.** The "compassionate life" focuses on justice and shalom in all human relationships and social structures. This spiritual dimension addresses the gospel imperative for equity and compassion among all peoples.
- **Evangelical.** The "word-centered life" focuses on the proclamation of the good news of the gospel. This spiritual dimension addresses the need for people to see the good news lived and hear the good news proclaimed.
- **Incarnational.** The "sacramental life" focuses on making present and visible the realm of the invisible spirit. This spiritual dimension addresses the crying need to experience God as truly manifest and active in daily life.

Spiritual Formation Group: *Volunteers from the audience modeled the small groups that undergird spiritual growth.*

After Foster introduced and described all these traditions, he asked participants to each think of one they would like to learn more about and develop more in their spiritual experience. They were asked to stand as he named the tradition they wanted to strengthen in themselves. As more of the group got to its feet with the naming of each aspect, it became a visible demonstration that the desire for a more balanced spirituality was growing among them.

The practical strategy for implementing spiritual development under the Renovaré model is through Spiritual Formation Groups that gather for mutual nurture and encouragement. Though many who attended were already familiar with small groups, several said the groups that formerly met in their churches had lapsed and now needed to be re-energized.

Foster made his case for small groups by quoting John Wesley, who wrote in 1763: "I was more convinced than ever that the preaching like an apostle, without the joining together those that are awakened and training them up in the ways of God, is only begetting children for the murderer. How much preaching has there been for these twenty years all over Pembrokeshire! But no regular societies, no discipline, no order, or connection. And the consequence is that nine in ten of those once awakened are now faster asleep than ever."

Renovaré recommends a simple meeting structure detailed in its *Spiritual Formation Workbook*. It centers on sharing how God has been at work in each person's life during the week past, sharing needs and praying together, and encouraging each other for the week ahead.

Though the recommended structure is common and uncomplicated, Foster insists that some structure and rules of confidentiality are important to succeed. "A steady diet of superficial conversation can literally strangle the soul," says Renovaré literature. "We long to know and be known at deep personal levels, though we fear that involvement. Simply sitting with a small group of people does not guarantee building personal relationships at a level which allows us to affirm each other. Groups need a structure that will facilitate personal sharing."

Participants left the conference Saturday evening enthusiastic, and eager to begin the work of developing their spiritual lives. They had learned that growth needs effort, to get bodies and minds ready to accept God's grace. It needs balance; too much emphasis on one area of the spiritual life and too little on another leads to imbalance. And it needs structure, because people without strategy tend to flounder. Clearly, after the Renovaré weekend in Elizabethtown, renewal had begun.

RESOURCES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Listed below are some of the books Renovaré recommends. They may be ordered from Brethren Press at the prices listed by calling 800-441-3712, or by fax 800-667-8188. Include order number.

Streams of Living Water: Celebrating the Great Traditions of Christian Faith, by Richard Foster. HarperSanFrancisco, 1998. Order #0242, $21.

A Spiritual Formation Workbook: Small-Group Resources for Nurturing Christian Growth, by James Bryan Smith with Lynda Graybeal. HarperSanFrancisco, revised 1999. Order #0253, $10.

Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth, by Richard Foster. HarperSanFrancisco, revised 1998. Order #7316, $22.

The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives, by Dallas Willard. HarperSanFrancisco, 1988. Order #0258, $15.

The address of Renovaré is 8 Inverness Drive East, Suite 102, Englewood, CO 80112-5624.

Don Padgett

MINISTRY of MEDICINE

FOR 40 YEARS, INTERCHURCH MEDICAL ASSISTANCE HA

BY WALT WILTSCHEK

Paul Derstine was working in Haiti in 1991, serving as program director for a medical operation in the impoverished Caribbean nation. Recently elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was being forced out in a military coup, and chaos was spreading across the country.

Derstine found himself out in a remote section of the western part of the nation when the government finally fell. Roads everywhere were cut and transportation disrupted. It left Derstine alone as the only American in a small village for 10 days.

As he walked around during those uncertain days, he would pass a small clinic at the edge of the town. Though he wasn't a doctor himself, he could tell that needs weren't being met.

"People would go in, and there was nothing in this clinic to help them," Derstine said. "For the first time, I asked myself, 'What if I get sick or break a leg?' It really struck me what life was like for so many people in the world."

He was eventually able to reach the capital of Port-au-Prince and be evacuated, once again reaching the safety and comfort of the United States. The memories of that experience didn't fade, though, staying fresh as a pressing issue in his mind.

As so often happens, God soon provided a route for his passion. Just as Derstine found himself at a crossroads, a nonprofit agency called Interchurch Medical Assistance, Inc. had a need for a director. Each party liked what the other had to offer, and so in January 1992 Derstine traveled to IMA's offices at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md.

"I really felt that God had led me here," Derstine said.

And he has led IMA, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, through a decade of change and expansion. Derstine said the current work of IMA—now with 12 member organizations, including the Church of the Brethren General Board—falls into five major categories:

- Placing donations at sites around the world as medicines become available from corporations or other sources.
- Purchasing other necessary drugs with cash donations received to "fill the gaps."
- Providing a "medicine box" program that will supply a medical office to serve 1,000 people for three months, plus a variety of special box supply programs. Pharmaceutical services director Don Padgett and other staff members work to coordinate and fulfill these lists.
- Responding to emergencies in appropriate ways, usually as the second, long-term phase of recovery after the immediate disaster relief. IMA works in "places forgotten a long time ago by CNN," as Derstine puts it.
- Organizing disease control initiatives in developing countries. These efforts currently focus on choceriasis, or river blindness, and on lymphatic filariasis, or elephantiasis.

o members of an IMA river ndness healthcare team *e medicine to a nzanian girl. The dicine stops progression the disease that causes hing, disfigurement, and ntual blindness.*

Don Padgett

Measuring up. *A teacher measures a student's height to determine the correct medicine dosage for a Tanzanian boy with river blindness.*

UPPLIED PHARMACEUTICALS TO THE WORLD'S NEEDY

IMA

Elephantiasis victims in Recife, Brazil, *meet regularly for education and support, often helping one another in washing the affected leg and foot. Paul Derstine, standing second from right, observes the activities of the "Hope Club," accompanied by Dr. Gerusa Dreyer (third from right), coordinator of the International Training Center for Elephantiasis Treatment Services and a pioneer and internationally renowned expert in this work. IMA's elephantiasis program in Haiti models the hygiene and treatment practices of Dr. Dreyer.*

According to IMA, more than $13 million worth of medicines and other supplies are shipped annually. More than 2,000 medical boxes were sent out in the 1990s.

Those numbers and the organization's growth were likely beyond the dreams of the group that came together to form IMA in response to needs in 1960.

The organization grew out of the vision of a woman named Bert Marker, who wanted to support women's clinical work in India through Methodist medical mission work. She went to the various pharmaceutical companies and asked for help with her project, and some of them responded. Soon drums of vitamins were being dropped off in her backyard.

Others soon joined her quest, and six denominations (not including the Church of the Brethren at the time) banded together to formalize the effort and create IMA. They located the offices in the New York City neighborhood bustling with the ecumenical activity of the National Council of Churches, and handled warehousing needs out of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor.

The Church of the Brethren General Board did join as a partner soon afterwards, and in April 1981 the IMA offices relocated to New Windsor, too. Today eight staff members work at the Brethren Service Center, on the second floor of the venerable Blue Ridge building, and two others work elsewhere: medical adviser Dr. Glen Brubaker in Lancaster, Pa., and IMA resident representative Charles Franzen in Tanzania.

Derstine is himself a member and moderator of the Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren, and he said he values having the denomination as a partner in IMA's work.

A special program called the Church of the Brethren clinic box, which began in 1998, gathers specific supplies plus a cash donation to aid the work of rural clinics. The boxes have particularly been used in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, and Honduras so far. Mission workers Jerry and

Becky Crouse hosted Padgett for a tour of several denominations' medical projects in the Dominican last year.

And, of course, the Brethren Service Center itself has provided a continuing context for IMA's work. Derstine said the value of that partnership can't be put into dollars, and the cooperation and sharing available there really make IMA's operations possible.

Walt Wiltschek

> "THE NEEDS ARE GREATER THAN EVER, AND WE REALLY HAVE TO WORK MUCH HARDER AT BRINGING RESOURCES TO THE NEED."
> —Paul Derstine, president of Interchurch Medical Assistance

The agency fits well with the service center's focus on other relief efforts, such as disaster response and refugee resettlement. IMA's only formal international programs operate in Haiti and Tanzania, but, through outreach and other partnerships, IMA services reach about 45 to 50 countries each year.

"Their presence on our campus is further demonstration to our guests of the international concern and ministry focus of the Center and its resident agencies," says Stan Noffsinger, director of the Brethren Service Center and the Church of the Brethren General Board's representative to the IMA board.

The work of IMA, while remaining true to the original mission, has changed considerably in the 40 years since its founding. Back then, and through the next three decades, IMA functioned mainly as a clearinghouse and information coordinator. It would gather surplus products and overruns as companies called and offered them, and it would gather information on the needs of people overseas who could use the drugs in mission work.

The donations flowed in easily, people in the field knew how to use the supplies, and IMA could simply connect the two without needing to worry about fundraising or soliciting supplies. In the 1990s, however, the situation changed. Pharmaceutical companies became more exact in their production schedules, and surplus went down. The needs for medications and other services overseas became more specific. IMA's task moved well beyond simple logistics.

Derstine said he finds himself needing to work much harder at fundraising and promotion now as many agencies and programs compete for dollars, and corporate donations don't simply flow in automatically. The scope of the organization's activities has widened considerably, requiring IMA staff to be proactive and define specific needs for congregations, individuals, and pharmaceutical corporations to support.

Through all the growth and changes in the eight and a half years since his arrival in New Windsor, Derstine continues to feel the calling he felt in rural Haiti. The task has grown more difficult in many ways, but it has grown ever more exciting, too, as new programs have begun and others are being explored.

"The needs are greater than ever, and we really have to work much harder at bringing resources to the need," Derstine said. "We feel the challenge, and we feel good about it." M.

Walt Wiltschek is manager of news services for the General Board.

HOW TO MAKE A BRETHREN CLINIC BOX

1. Assemble one or more complete kits containing all required products in quantities shown below.
2. Over-the-counter products must be new products, with unbroken seals.
3. No substitution of products is acceptable.
4. With each kit of medical supplies, please provide an additional gift of $150. This money will be used by Interchurch Medical Assistance to purchase, at special wholesale pricing, specially selected over-the-counter medications and supplies applicable to the clinics, and to cover packing, shipping, and program administration costs.
5. Pack products carefully in a carton for shipment by UPS or USPS. Ship the clinic box items only to Brethren Service Center Annex, 601 Main Street, New Windsor, MD 21776-0188. Clearly mark the box(es) Brethren Clinic Box Program.
6. Send a check for $150 per clinic box to Interchurch Medical Assistance, Inc., Attn: Brethren Clinic Box Program, P.O. Box 429, New Windsor, MD 21776. Include in this mailing a note indicating from whom, when, and by what means, the box(es) of medical supplies were shipped to the BSC Annex. When IMA has received both the check and notification that the box has arrived at the Annex, a receipt acknowledgment will be issued to the congregation.

Items to be collected for the box:

- 6 bars of antibacterial soap (Dial)
- 6 rolls adhesive tape (1/2")
- 50 gauze pads (4x4)
- 1 bag of 500 cotton balls
- 500 assorted size Band-Aids
- 1 box of 500 Q-tips

What does it take to be a Caregiver?

Deacon Manual
Caring Ministries
Ministerio de los Diáconos

Resources

Being Prepared to Care for a Congregation

ABC offers a wide range of training and recognition resources to congregations wishing to establish or support a deacon ministry program. Deacon resources include:

Deacon Manual for Caring Ministries (in handbook and large print versions)

Annual Conference Statement on Deacon Ministries (in English and Spanish)

Training Video on Deacon Ministries (in English and Spanish)

Deacon and Deacon Emeritus Certificates

Deacon Identification and Visitation Cards

Study Materials About Deacon Ministry from Biblical and Historical Perspectives

Chalmer Faw

Prayer

Being Sensitive to and Insightful with Others

Chalmer Faw, a well-known and loved Brethren, shares from his heart and spirit in this newly revised edition of *Now that I Am Getting Old: Devotions and Reflections on Old Age and the Nursing Home.* Drawing from his years of service to the denomination as a missionary and seminary professor, Chalmer makes relevant and practical the biblical faith in a retirement community setting. His words and prayers bring hope and inspiration to those who feel that they have nothing more to give.

Traditions

Being Ready to Talk About Difficult Issues

Three study guides are part of a series of materials ABC is creating on end-of-life decisions. Written by Graydon F. Snyder, these study guides use biblical texts, case studies and questions to help study groups and families explore their ideas and beliefs about end-of-life issues from a Brethren perspective.

Choosing Death with Dignity: A Study Guide on Death, Bereavement and Burial

Choosing Death: A Study Guide on Euthanasia

Annual Conference Statement on End-of-Life Decision-Making Organ and Tissue Donation

Caring Ministries 2000 Conference

Renewal

Being Healthy Enough to Care for Others

Audio and video tapes of keynote presentations from ABC's biennial conference for caregivers can serve to inspire and renew caregivers.

Barbara Lundblad — Bible Study Set

Robert Raines — "Gaining A Wise Heart"

Staccato Powell — "Resident Aliens"

John Shea — "The Spirit Blows Where it Will?"

Phillip Stone — "Transformed to What? The Vision and Pursuit of Transformation"

Virginia Thornburgh — "That All May Worship, A Ramp is Not Enough"

Melva Wilson Costen — "The Healing Freshness of God's Grace: African American Spirituals and God's Divine Medicine"

Philip Yancey — "What's So Amazing About Grace"

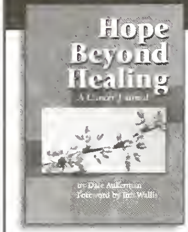
Association of
Brethren Caregivers

The Association of Brethren Caregivers provides denominational resources to caregivers.
To order these resources, call ABC at (800) 323-8039.

CAREGIVING IS CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER.

"If we suddenly find ourselves face to face with dying, we come up against ultimate questions. . . . After I received the diagnosis of advanced lung cancer, I needed to deal with those questions more intensely than I ever had before."

—Dale Aukerman



Hope Beyond Healing: A Cancer Journal by Dale Aukerman available now from Brethren Press for $14.95 plus shipping and handling charges.

Brethren Press
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

Letters

One year ago in July, I was baptized into the Brethren faith—hopeful and prayerfully set on "living my faith all week long!"

For news about Nigerians

Every time I hear about or read of the turmoil in Africa, I wonder how the Brethren are faring. Work in Sudan is mentioned quite often, but I'm referring to the indigenous Brethren in Nigeria. As it has a large membership in our denomination, I care for their safety whenever there is a presidential coup or, as in the case in one area, where they are trying to make Muslim law the law of the land. Can you clue us in once in a while to how our Brethren in Africa are faring?

Mary Mummert
Orland Park, Ill.

Editor's note: Please see a news article on page 8, of this issue, for information on recent violence in Nigeria.

Also, we suggest that readers subscribe to Newsline, the free online Church of the Brethren news report, which carries regular updates on Nigeria. To subscribe write to cobnews@aol.com.

And here are two websites with current general news from Nigeria:

- *http://odili.net/nigeria.html*

A Nigerian living in the US maintains this site, which includes news and cultural information about Nigeria.

- *http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/ inatl/ longterm/ worldref/ country/nigeria.htm*

This is the Washington Post's page listing news about Nigeria.

Faithful living all week long

I read Wendy McFadden's column "From the Publisher" in my March, 2000 MESSENGER and wanted you to know I shouted, "That's me!" when got to the fifth paragraph.

She writes: "Back when I first became acquainted with the Brethren, what impressed me most was the sense I had that these people live out on Monday what they say they believe on Sunday."

That is almost word for word the feeling I expressed after attending the Palmyra (Pa.) Church of the Brethren for awhile—becoming acquainted with the people and dis-

Ecumenical Luncheon
Annual Conference, Kansas City
Tuesday, July 18—12 Noon

The NCCC Today: Following Jesus Christ, Together
Rev. Robert W. Edgar, General Secretary
National Council of Churches of Christ

Presentation of the 2000 Ecumenical Award

Tickets available through the Annual Conference Office
1-800-323-8039 or at www.brethren.org

Come meet and dialog with Bob Edgar during Tuesday night's Insight Session!
"The NCCC: Past, Present, and Future"
Sponsored by the Committee on Interchurch Relations

covering that they truly lived their religion all week long. I found that to be a wonderful thing—a rarity based on my past affiliation with other "brands" of Christians.

The Brethren are so service-minded, eager, and ready to give help when and where it's needed. She crystallized my experience perfectly. One year ago in July, I was baptized into the Brethren faith—hopeful and prayerfully set on "living my faith all week long!"

As the mother of six- and four-year-old sons, I also loved the reference to the tooth fairy. She's only had to make an appearance three times in our house so far, and has been timely each time—we'll see f the track record continues! I enjoy reading MESSENGER and appreciate the good work that goes into it.

Judi-Lynn Hummel
Hershey, Pa.

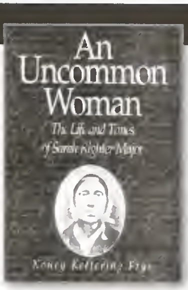
Keep authenticity at core

Wendy McFadden's call to retain authenticity as a core Brethren value [See "From the Publisher," March], underlined by her commitment to such discipleship, was a final stimulus to this letter.

I turn first in each month's issue to "From the Publisher" and find it the best addition to the "new" MESSENGER. It offers me a personal, articulate message of inspiration and hope in a changing Church of the Brethren, which I experience as retreating from ecumenical leadership for peace.

Hopefully, this year's Annual Conference theme, "Love as I have loved you," will be a good compass point for our denomination.

Keith K. Hoover
Lombard, Ill.



Man, that woman can preach.

An Uncommon Woman:
The Life and Times of Sarah Righter Major

Nancy Kettering Frye. *Brethren Press.* Infamous in the mid 1800s as a woman preacher in a man's world, Sister Sarah bravely preached the gospel wherever people invited her to speak. Nancy Kettering Frye provides details, facts, and stories about the life of the first female Brethren preacher. Step into the 19th century and meet the men and women who influenced Sarah Righter Major's life and supported her preaching ministry. #8224, $6.95

Brethren Press
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

Providing Superior Care for Your Peace of Mind

EVERYTHING YOU WANT
IN A SERENE YET CONVENIENT COUNTRY SETTING.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING IN CROSS KEYS VILLAGE
- HARMONY RIDGE APARTMENTS OR COTTAGES

DINING - PLANNED ACTIVITIES - TRANSPORTATION
ON-CAMPUS BANKING & MEDICAL FACILITIES

ASSISTED LIVING CENTER
- SHELTERED NEIGHBORHOOD
- PRIVATE ROOMS WITH BATH
- HEALTH CARE CENTER
- HOUSEKEEPING

EVERYTHING YOU NEED
- SUPPORT SERVICES
- HOME HEALTH SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE (ALZHEIMER'S) UNIT
- CROSS KEYS SUBACUTE CENTER
- ADULT DAY SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE UNIT
- NURSING CARE
- RESPITE CARE

MEDICARE/MEDICAID APPROVED

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Christian care since 1908

2990 CARLISLE PIKE - P.O. BOX 128
NEW OXFORD, PA 17350-0128
1-888-624-8242
WWW.BRETHRENHOME.ORG

The Brethren Home Community

Bible and the death penalty

It has been my understanding since I was a child, as my godly mother taught her children, that the Church of the Brethren believed the Bible was the true word of God and was to be believed as it was written.

When theology and theologians blot out what the Bible says about human sinful behavior, then the Bible loses its value and relevance.

Jesus Christ made his position on the death penalty clear in Matthew 26:51-54, and there are nine other scriptures that support the death penalty. Here is one 89-year-old preacher and retired pastor who has stayed with what the Bible says and will continue with the Bible, for there is nothing any better to believe.

I sincerely believe the Bible does support the death penalty.

Fenton Platter
Roanoke, Va.

Classified Ads

AUTHOR'S QUERY

Seeking name and stories of Brethren who moved into Missouri prior to Civil War years. The experiences of the Civil War years are significant in studying the settlement patters of the Brethren in Missouri and adjoining states. Persons willing to share information may contact Jane Davis, 800 E. Hale Lake Rd., Warrensburg, MO 64093-3042; phone 660-429-6215; e-mail jneherda@iland.net.

FOR SALE

Centennial History of the Nampa Church of the Brethren, Idaho, 1899-1999, was released last November. It contains 80 pages of narrative and 220 photographs on another 50 pages. This paperbound book is priced at $15.00 plus $2.00 for shipping and handling. Checks should be written to the order of the Nampa Church of the Brethren. Address: 11030 W. Orchard, Nampa, ID 83651.

INVITATION

The New Beginnings Church of the Brethren invites Brethren traveling to Annual Conference to stay overnight at Warrensburg and arrive refreshed to begin Conference. We are located 50 miles east of Kansas City, MO on Highway 50 or 16 miles south of I-70. We have a gravel parking lot and grassed area for tents. We are easily accessible at the southeast edge of Warrensburg 1 mile east of Highway 13 on East Hale Lake (DD) Rd. Contact the church, 660-747-6216, or pastor at 660-429-6215, address 802 E. Hale Lake Rd., Warrensburg, MO 64093-3042; e-mail jneherda@iland.net

POSITION AVAILABLE

Christian Family Practice group is seeking a family physician to join our growing practice. We are located in North Central Indiana, near Goshen. We provide obstetrics with many deliveries done at an Amish Birthing Center near Shipshewana. Opportunities for short- or long-term missions. Independently owned (six physicians & one PA) and committed to remaining sensitive to the needs of the local community. Option to buy in Contact Steve Wendler, Administrator, at Middlebury Family Physicians, PO Box 459, Middlebury, IN 46540 Day telephone: 219-825-2900 Evening: 219-825-7506.

Spread the Word! Use Messenger classifieds to le people know what's going on. $55 purchases a single issue insertion of up to 80 words. Frequency discounts are available. Submit ads via fax (847-742-1407), e-mai (kstocking_gb@brethren.org) or letter (Messenger Classifieds, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120). Deadline is first of month prior to month of publication Advertise today!

"We're Here To Listen! We're Here To Help."

Tell us what the church has meant in your life.
Share with us your hopes for the church tomorrow.
Tell us about your family and your dreams for them.
Dream with us about the future.

LET US HELP CONNECT YOUR DREAMS WITH REALITY.

Ken Neher

John Thomas

David Huffaker

Ray Glick

Carol Bowman

The Financial Resource Counselors

A Stewardship Service of the Church of the Brethren General Board
Call 800-323-8039 ext. 234 or write General Board Funding 1451 Dundee Ave. Elgin, IL 60120

Turning Points

New members

Barren Ridge, Staunton, Va.: Jordan Coffman, Daniel Graham, Summer Brooks, Kylene Phillips
Bridgewater, Va.: Ray and Miriam Martindale, Paul and Janet Foster, Allen Pugh, Carl and Madaline Zigler, Jim and Teresa Crawford, Ches Crawford, Chris and Monica Garber
Chiques, Manheim, Pa.: Lloyd Ebersole, Adrian Shelly, Stephanie Shelly, Steve Stouffler
Cincinnati, Ohio: Christine Barrett, Suzanne Black, Merle Black, Roger Cruser, Mary Cruser, Bobbie Oh, Dale Swallen, Lydia Swallen
Dupont, Ohio: Armondo Barraza, Ruth Martin, Norma Spears, Amalee Webb, Dawn Workman, Bryant Adkins, Lindsay Adkins, Richie Adams, Ashley Adams, Chad Adams
Freeburg, Paris, Ohio: Ruth Cessna, John English, Sara Isgro, Angela Broache, Ethan Byrne
Friendship, Linthicum, Md.: Jane-Adair Seleski
Good Shepherd, Silver Spring, Md.: Sharon Spurrier
Guernsey, Monticello, Ind.: Dana and Deb Hood
Hanover, Pa.: Eric Longwell, Kristine Longwell
McPherson, Kan.: Claron Brown, Alvera Brown, Peter DeWitt, Ted Hammarlund, Darren Heitschmidt, Julie Heitschmidt, Dennis Houghton, Betty Houghton, Dallas Blacklock, Adelina Cripe, Paul Liepelt, Bryan Lucore, Laina McKellip, Marie Rhoades
Maple Spring, Hollsopple, Pa.: Brianne Fockler, Mitchell Ott
Marsh Creek, Gettysburg, Pa.: Delmar and Adena Crum
Memorial, Martinsburg, Pa.: Paula McCready
Mill Creek, Tryon, N.C.: Kaila Tarbutton, Pat Tarbutton, Ray McArthur, Charlie Byrd, Melissa Callahan, Courtney Johnston, Nancy Mace, Keelia McCormack, Chris McEntire, Jacob Pate, Joseph Pate, Boyce Skipper, Donna Skipper, Joseph Greenway, Rebecca Greenway, Lee Hines, Mike Lovelace, Patti Lovelace, Lindsey Newsom
Mountain View, Boise, Idaho: Brandon Durst, Eddie Landes, Anitta Landes, Jaunetta Robinson, Hoagy Robinson, Jack Quinn, Mary Quinn, Charles Hernandez
New Paris, Ind.: Loyal and Dorothy Rogers, Joan Hein
Palmyra, Pa.: Kristina Conkle, Russ and Kris Nagy, Lucille Reber
Philadelphia, Pa.: Patricia Derr
Pleasant View, Fayetteville, W.Va.: Ruth Riner, Victoria Vandall, Linda Vandall
Pleasant View, Lima, Ohio: Kim Koogler, Kayla Koogler, Jessica Bame, Jessica Gullette, Nicholas Gullette, Steven Gullette, Rick Gullette, Jill Gullette, John Freed, Josh Bassett, Eric Vore, Kristy Vore, James Marsteller
Prince of Peace, Littleton, Colo.: Bob Bechtel
Sugar Valley, Loganton, Pa.: Melanie Duck, Adam Breon
Troutville, Va.: David Vassar, Leigh Odenwelder
Union Center, Nappanee, Ind.: Sara Kauffman, Jesse Steffen
University Park, Hyattsville, Md.: Miriam A. Morataya, Santiago A. Morataya
West Green Tree, Elizabethtown, Pa.: Myron Weber, Helen Weber, Helen Keener
Westminster, Md.: Lisa Groff
York Center, Lombard, Ill.: Jill de Coursey, Paul Asta, Gary Keenan, Amy Knickrehm, Barry Weber, Marty Bonine, Rachel Ilahi, Jim and Kim Yaussy Albright

Wedding anniversaries

Click, Victor and Duane, Harrisonburg, Va., 50
Detwiler, Willis and Rosa, Beford, Pa., 65
Fike, Norman and Nora, Denver, Colo., 60
Flickinger, Glenn and Evelyn, Wakarusa, Ind., 55
Frantz, Byron and Eula, Windsor, Colo., 50
Garl, Harley and Betty, Nappanee, Ind., 50
Gilbert, John and Martha, Staunton, Va., 65
Hatcher, Gerland and Margaret, Troutville, Va., 50
Hoffer, Victor and Mabel, Palmyra, Pa., 71
Hosler, Galen and Alta, Manheim, Pa., 55
Kissling, Charles and Marian, Lima, Ohio, 50
Krehmeyer, August and Earlene, Haxtun, Colo., 60
Kurtz, Kenneth and Eileen, New Paris, Ind., 60
Moneyheffer, Harvey and Annamae, Nappanee, Ind., 55
Price, Dean and Elizabeth, Nappanee, Ind., 65
Shaffer, Floyd and Doris, Hooversville, Pa., 50
Shaw, Robert and Pearl, Uniontown, Pa., 65
Sheffer, Wilson and Treva, Bridgewater, Va., 70
Shiffler, Carroll and Anna, Elizabethtown, Pa., 55
Weaver, Harold and Grace, Annville, Pa., 55
Whitmer, John and Donna, North Liberty, Ind., 55
Woodie, Bobbie and Phyllis, Troutville, Va., 50

Deaths

Alt, Albert K., 85, Petersburg, W.Va., Jan. 6
Armey, Chester, 89, Arrowwood, Alberta, Canada, Nov. 13
Armey, Thurza, 85, Arrowwood, Alberta, Canada, June 20
Ballard, Orville, 89, Mt. Morris, Ill., Jan. 6
Barton, Nelson L., 45, Woodstock, Va., Jan. 28
Baughman, Wilma, 94, Glenford, Ohio, Dec. 30
Beedle, Pauline R., 63, Bayse, Va., Jan. 27
Bellows, Alpha, 83, Dixon, Ill., Jan. 25
Berkey, Harold D., 84, Goshen, Ind., Jan. 18
Biegel, William P., 77, Havelock, N.C., Jan. 9
Boyd, Grace, 74, Campbelltown, Pa., Dec. 29
Brandt, Fred, 80, Palmyra, Pa., Sept. 6
Brightbill, Mary, 82, New Freedom, Pa., Aug. 18
Brown, Scott R., 86, Singers Glen, Va., Jan. 6
Boyers, Mabel W., 88, Hanover, Pa., Jan. 2
Campbell, Massie D., 91, Frederick, Md., Jan. 10
Cook, Eloise, 70, Springfield, Ohio, Dec. 6
Cool, Raymond, 89, Mt. Morris, Ill., Dec. 20
Cooper, Dean R., 81, Harman, W.Va., Nov. 29
Corbett, Olive, 87, Mt. Morris, Ill., Jan. 24
Cotter, Carl, 88, Oct. 28
Dick, Florence, 97, Clymer, Pa., Jan. 6
Diehl, Harry W., 89, Luray, Va., Dec. 22
Dodson, Nola, 86, Fayetteville, W.Va., Jan. 4
Dove, Hattie E., 94, Mathias, W.Va., Jan. 24
Dutrow, Sara, 92, Union Bridge, Md., Dec. 8
Ensign, C. David, 82, La Verne, Calif., Jan. 25
Eshleman, Mae, 97, Lebanon, Pa., Sept. 18
Esterline, E. Loretta, 84, Brookville, Ohio, Jan. 27
Fike, Thelma, 93, Peace Valley, Mo., Jan. 17
Fitzwater, Virgie S., 94, Moorefield, W.Va., Jan. 6
Flory, Basil, 88, Sandusky, Ohio, Dec. 22
Foster, Bruce D., 59, Bridgewater, Va., Jan. 15
Frantz, Barbara Gray, 68, Naperville, Ill., Dec. 13
Gearhart, Gerald, 81, Akron, Ind., July 3
Gillin, M. Gertrude, 85, Salem, Ohio, Nov. 20
Gohl, Charles W., 79, Parker Ford, Pa.
Gottshall, Ruth, 75, Palmyra, Pa., Oct. 10
Griffin, Fern, 84, Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 30
Halterman, Lois M., 88, Bridgewater, Va., Dec. 26
Halterman, Melvin W., 79, Mathias, W.Va., Jan. 15
Harman, Evelyn J., 91, Petersburg., W.Va., Dec. 26
Heisey, Jenny Sue, 53, Fenton, Mich., Oct. 25
Holcombe, Stanley, 72, Union Bridge, Md., Jan. 27
Holman, Rhonda Wise, 39, Grand Junction, Colo., Feb. 2
Hoover, Dwight P., 79, Goshen, Ind., Jan. 17
Hubert, Robert, 49, Continental, Ohio, Jan. 27
Humphreys, Virginia G., 84, Front Royal, Va., Jan. 16
Hury, Prudence S., 89, Claremont, Calif., Jan. 12
Kuntz, Naomi, 94, Palmyra, Pa., Nov. 11
Lantz, W. Earl, 94, Syracuse, Ind., Feb. 8
Longenecker, Beatrice, 93, Palmyra, Pa., Aug. 22
Marion, Mary E., 77, Farmersville, Ohio, Jan. 10
McDaniel, Arthur, 80, Carleton, Neb., Feb. 28
McDaniel, Trella, 95, Jerome, Pa., Jan. 13
Miller, Franklin Jr., 60, Luray, Va., Dec. 28
Miller, F. Marie, 93, Martinsburg, Pa., Sept. 26
Miller, Nina Y., 92, Bridgewater, Va., Jan. 8
Mundy, Leona F., 86, Rockville, Md., Dec. 23
Neff, Eva V. R., 93, Harrisonburg, Va., Jan. 1
Pence, Jacob C., Jr., 78, Pineville, Va., Dec. 21
Potterfield, Alma, 100, Stoughton, Wis., Jan. 17
Radford, Annabel L., Fayetteville, W.Va., Jan. 15
Raish, Richard J., 72, Dayton, Va., Dec. 21
Rittle, Minnetta, 87, Palmyra, Pa., Nov. 30
Rodeffer, Laura, 90, Palmyra, Pa., Jan. 8
Rothrock, Jean, 85, La Verne, Calif., Sept 5
Royer, Gladys, 97, North Manchester, Ind., Aug. 27
Runion, Anna M., 79, New Market, Va., Dec. 29
Saylor, Mellicent B., 89, La Verne, Calif., Sept. 19
Scott, Charles F., 87, Brandywine, W.Va., Jan. 12
Settle, Madeline L., 85, Fayetteville, W.Va., Jan. 21
Shewman, Ralph E., 82, Akron, Ind., Jan. 11
Shock, Helen E., 82, Defiance, Ohio, Jan. 7
Smith, Darlene W., 56, Wardensville, W.Va., Jan. 17
Smith, Edna L., 86, Bergton, Va., Jan. 29
Smith, Helen, 87, Bridgewater, Va., Jan. 10
Stoffer, Wilma, 87, Louisville, Ohio, Nov. 20
Symensma, Charles, 81, New Paris, Ind., Nov. 29
Walborn, Raymond, 87, Palmyra, Pa., Dec. 31
Walker, Estelle, St. Clair Shores, Mich.
Walter, Virgie L., 97, Gettysburg, Pa., Feb. 5
Wiggins, Murphy, 97, Springfield, Ohio, Jan. 20
Wine, Guy C. Jr., 78, New Market, Va., Jan. 25
Wolff, Ionella, 84, La Verne, Calif., Dec. 27

Licensings

Gibson, Robert, Aug. 1, 1997, Bethel, Carleton, Neb.
Mickle, Chad Wayne, Dec. 5, New Enterprise, Pa.
Reffner, Earla, Nov. 28, New Enterprise, Pa.
Snair, Freeman Allen Jr., Dec. 26, Rockhill Furnace, Pa.
Turner, Ruby, Jan. 9, Cedar Run, Broadway, Va.

Ordinations

Crumrine, Duane E., Dec. 5, Martinsburg, Pa.
Groth, Harold, Independence, Kan., Jan. 9
Hubble, James W., Bethel, Carleton, Neb., Feb. 15, 1998
Mendez, Milciades, Puerta del Cielo, Reading, Pa.
Ramirez, Tomas, Alpha and Omega, Lancaster, Pa., Jan. 9
Smith, Thomas, Parsons, Kan., April 30, 1999

Pastoral placement

Ditmars, Larry, from interim to permanent, Topeka, Kan., Jan. 17
Gandy, Craig, to Cedar Grove, New Paris, Ohio, youth pastor, part time, Feb. 1
Hood, Dana, to Guernsey, Monticello, Ind., part time, Nov. 1
Jacobson, Michael, to Big Sky Baptist/Brethren, Froid, Mont., Feb. 1
Roudebush, Norbert "Pete," to Trinity, Blountville, Tenn., part time, March 1

Editorial

Springtime in the neighborhood

It was one of the first warm days of genuine spring and I had just shown an apartment to an attractive and employed young single mother who said how nice it was. Outside, children were walking home from school and a little girl told her friend proudly, "That's my landlord." A little boy said, "Hey, landlord," and I asked him to tell me his name again. "Tierre." I promised him I wouldn't forget it this time. Sometimes it just feels good to be involved with low-income housing in my own neighborhood, helping people, saving houses, serving the Lord.

Sometimes it doesn't. Later, a neighbor called, saying he thought my new tenant in another building was running a daycare operation out of her apartment. I went over and there were at least 10 children, not only in her yard, but in the yard next door, and in the alley. Adults were there but my tenant wasn't. I talked to her that evening and told her this can't happen again. "It can't?" she said, genuinely surprised. It wasn't a daycare, she said, just her and some friends taking care of the children of working moms whose preschool was closed that afternoon. She wasn't sure what was wrong with it and I wasn't either. It was just too many children, and the neighbors complain.

Next day another neighbor called to say he had lost sleep because kids were in the yard of one of my houses, acting crazy and playing loud music until all hours of the night. On the street I saw the high school senior who lives there, a good kid I've known for years, and asked him about the party last night. The disturbance couldn't have been coming from his house, he told me, because his mom had been home. Two days later I got a similar call from the same neighbor about the same house, so I'll turn up the heat.

The winter had been a difficult time for screen doors at my duplex up the street, where women in both the upstairs unit and the downstairs unit had gotten orders of protection against abusive boyfriends. The women both at different times asked me to have their locks changed, then when the guys couldn't get in they took out their anger on my doors. By spring the problems had changed. My upstairs tenant, now pregnant, wants to move out because her kids can't get along with the kids of the downstairs woman, whose boyfriend has moved in with her. I allowed her to break her lease provided she would forfeit her security deposit. Then her mother reported me to city authorities for keeping her deposit.

Sometimes the poor are no fun. I get discouraged when springtime calls to mind drunks more than daffodils. When tenants act like jerks, I have to remember the third verse of the hymn "Brothers and sisters of mine are the hungry," which says: "People are they, persons made in God's image." People, not animals.

The old rule applies: I have at least 80 percent wonderful tenants and no more than 20 percent sometimes problematic tenants, and I try not to complain. Nobody forced me into this kind of work; the problems go with the territory. Besides, complaining just confirms the image most people have of the poor as immoral, lazy, and worthless, when in reality most are struggling valiantly against terrific odds to give their children good homes. Also, I keep quiet about the problems because they reflect on me. "Don't you screen your tenants?" people ask, as though it were as simple as having them fill out a form.

But there are reasons to say not all is well in our neighborhoods. Now that the economy is thriving, unemployment is low, and welfare reform has put moms in jobs, many in this country think we have poverty licked. Yet the working poor still are plagued by drugs and alcohol, domestic violence, racism, and crime. Meanwhile, even the concerned non-poor, who contribute to charities and urge their politicians to fund social service agencies, move to all-white or all-rich suburbs, distancing themselves from urban problems.

What poor neighborhoods need more than anything is for more non-poor to move in and start loving their new neighbors. Among the first rules of evangelism is to "be among people with needs." When the Bible tells us there will always be poor among us, we sometimes forget the rest: "I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land'" (Deut. 15:11).

I had told the old man who lives in my one-bedroom that he and his friends are welcome to sit on the porch to enjoy the warm weather, but there is no alcohol allowed. So his group gathers for beer on the porch across the street. I see the mentally confused beggar lady is back. After she was arrested for panhandling last fall we didn't see her for awhile, so we hoped she'd gotten help. Now she's sitting with the old drunks, who are kind to her. I'm outside my house talking to a young man who's grown up in one of my houses, telling me proudly about his new job as a guard in a new prison. Both sides of the street are being entertained by watching the police down the block arrest a couple guys and have their car towed. I get a peaceful feeling that I'm part of this street scene. Old men, beggar lady, prison guard, landlord—we are neighbors all.

Ah, it's springtime in my neighborhood.

—Fletcher Farrar

Let Us Change Your Mind About Insurance

We Have a Different Policy

We insure members of The Church of the Brethren and member churches exclusively. . . and an important part of our mission is to transform the way you and your fellow church members think about insurance. We want every contact you have with us to be a positive, helpful experience – whether you're asking for advice or filing a claim. When you have a loss, we pledge that we will always be ready to help you both materially and emotionally. We're different from other insurance companies. We genuinely believe in the ideal of Brethren joining together for mutual aid, and we do everything possible to find creative ways to meet your needs – even if we have to go beyond policy limitations. Here's one story out of many that illustrates the difference our faith-centered approach to insurance can make.

FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Fire at Faith Batavia Church

Faith Batavia Church is located in Batavia, Illinois, a town of about 20,000 residents some 40 miles west of Chicago. In the middle of the night on March 2, 1998, long after the Sunday service had ended, a small fire broke out near the altar. Sometime later, when an exploding stained-glass window shattered the early morning stillness, a neighbor looked out to see smoke billowing from the church and called for help. The fire destroyed the whole front of the church, melted the Baptistry, blew out windows, burned the sanctuary ceiling, melted lighting fixtures, and damaged the pastor's office.

By the time the fire had been put out, there was soot and the acrid smell of wet, burned wood everywhere. And before the day was over, people from Mutual Aid were on the scene. They scrubbed floors and prayed and helped church members sort through the debris – and through the details of what had to be done to bring their damaged church back to life. Within days they had contacted a specialist in fire restorations who was willing to let church volunteers work with his crew. During the summer, MAA staff from headquarters in Abilene, Kansas, drove up to Batavia to spend two days painting the church interior, side-by-side with church volunteers.

As it turned out, the church was underinsured. Even though the loss was not total, the policy limits were below restoration costs. But through it all, MAA supplied funds to keep the work going – exceeding policy limits. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers, MAA's generosity, and help from the local community, the Batavia congregation held the first service in its freshly restored church Christmas Eve 1998.

Get Security You Can Depend On

In over a century of insuring churches and the property of Church members, no legitimate claim has ever gone unpaid. We offer free property appraisals and provide supplemental wellness and life insurance policies to protect your financial security and peace of mind.

Call 1-800-255-1243 Day or Night

You can also reach us by e-mail at maa@maabrethren.com or over our toll-free, 24-hour fax line at 1-800-238-7535. Our Web address is www.maabrethren.com

Mutual Aid Association
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

A ministry of sharing to secure peace of mind.

© Copyright 2000C Mutual Aid Association MAA-2012

214th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

July 15 - July 19, 2000

Love as I have loved you
John 15:12

MODERATOR

Emily Mumma

SPEAKERS

Joel Nogle

Belita Mitchell

Emanuel Cleaver

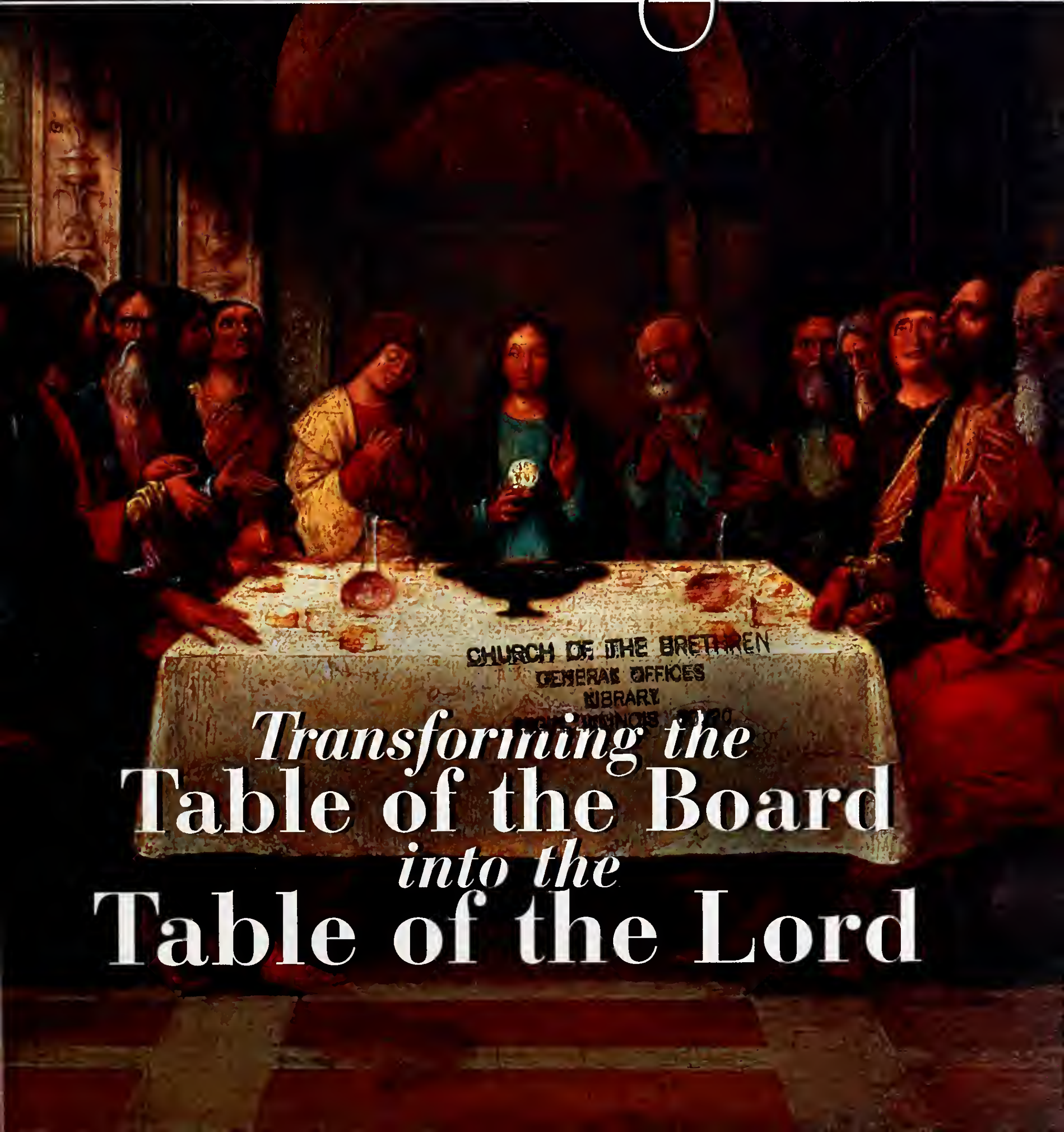
Thomas Troeger

KANSAS CITY CONVENTION CENTER

Visit us on our Web page at
www.brethren.org

Church of the Brethren www.brethren.org June 2000

Messenger



CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
GENERAL OFFICES
LIBRARY
ELGIN, ILLINOIS 60120

Transforming the Table of the Board *into the* Table of the Lord

Share the Experiences of a Lifetime!

The Brethren Homes of the Atlantic Northeast District invite you to explore the care and refreshing lifestyles at your doorstep...

"Life as good as it can get! – in a relaxed, care-free, attractive environment, among congenial contemporaries, supported by Christian love and service. Praise God!"

- FRANK & DOROTHY HORST

"We enjoy living at Brethren Village because it provides choices for us to live in an upbeat, well-managed, caring, Christ-centered community of persons from diverse backgrounds."

- CURTIS & ANNA MARY DUBBLE

"Living at Peter Becker Community offers us the opportunity to meet new Christian friends with similar interests. We have peace of mind knowing all our needs will be met."

- WILMER & RUTH HARTLEY

Lebanon Valley Brethren Home
1200 Grubb Street
Palmyra, PA 17078
(717) 838-5406

Brethren Village
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
3001 Lititz Pike
PO Box 5093
Lancaster, PA 17606
(717) 569-2657

Peter Becker Community
800 Maple Avenue
Harleysville, PA 19438
(215) 256-9501

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Messenger

Vol. 149, No. 5 June 2000 www.brethren.org

Editor: Fletcher Farrar
News: Walt Wiltschek
Subscriptions: Peggy Reinacher
Publisher: Wendy McFadden
Designer: Paul Stocksdale
Advertising: Russ Matteson

On the cover: We live in a time when people are seeking to reconnect with something and Someone greater than themselves. The catalyst for this spiritual reformation has various sources. It may be prompted by a crisis of faith or the loss of meaning or purpose. It can be the urge to discover, perhaps recover, a balance between the outer and the inner journey.

A rapidly changing culture calls for the continued grounding of life in scripture and spiritual practices. Listening to God's call, being captured by the vision God has for the church, being formed and shaped by the biblical images of mission and ministry found in scripture, seeking the mind of Christ and careful discernment, are a few key elements that provide an anchor for us when responding to an ever-changing world.

Worshipful-Work is an opportunity to deepen our spirituality even in church board and council meetings. It takes some faith to leave behind the rules and politics we associate with traditional agendas. It takes adventurous, trusting people to see practices traditionally associated with worship as steps to discernment that will lead both to a deeper faith and to a decision. These practices include stories of where we have been and faith statements about the future, as well as scripture, music, silence, and prayer.

Worshipful-Work can close the gap between our worship and our work. When our spirituality and our service come together, God is glorified and our neighbor's good is honored. When our spirituality and our service come together we find our anchor in a deepened faith; our worship and our work become one.—Glenn Timmons

Glenn Timmons, of Elgin, Ill., is director of Congregational Life Ministries for the General Board. The cover painting is titled The Institution of the Eucharist, *by Ercole de Roberti, c.1490 (tempera on panel). Used by permission.*

Departments

2 From the Publisher
3 In Touch
6 News
27 Letters
30 Turning Points
32 Editorial

10 What is Worshipful-Work?

During the past year, many Church of the Brethren leaders have been trained in W-W principles, and the General Board uses it. Now Annual Conference is bringing spirituality to business meetings, with a goal of better discerning the mind of Christ.

14 Houses of hope in the DR

Thirty-two families left homeless by Hurricane Georges received new houses through a combination of their own sweat equity, Church of the Brethren money and volunteers, and government help. Sally Jo Caracheo, who as a BVSer was project manager, describes in words and pictures the personalities and progress.

18 Germantown project

The first Brethren meetinghouse in America is not only a historic site but an active congregation in Philadelphia's Germantown. Some needed improvements are planned for the place where it all began.

20 Being Alexander Mack

Casey Drudge got started playing Alexander Mack innocently enough in his own church in Fort Wayne, Ind. But now he has taken his Living Heritage show on the road, not only acting, but preaching and teaching through Mack's persona.

Sally Jo Caracheo

23 Youth "Hunger for Justice"

The 100 Church of the Brethren youth and advisors who attended this year's Christian Citizenship Seminar in Washington, D.C., and New York City learned some stark lessons about poverty—and they came home vowing to do something about it.

From the Publisher

My four-year-old had been running around outside in her bare feet. Before she put her sandals back on as we prepared to go out in the evening, I told her we needed to wash her feet. I got the washcloth ready and she sat down on a stool. "This is just like at church, Mommy!" she exclaimed.

It took a second for me to realize that she was remembering the feetwashing experience at love feast, some weeks before. While there is childcare during love feast, this year she had insisted on spending the entire evening with the family. During feetwashing, she and several other girls sat on the floor watching. Her eyes grew big as she observed this unusual activity for the first time.

To present each part of the full communion service that evening, two girls asked their grandfather a series of questions about the Brethren love feast, in much the same way Jewish children ask ritual questions during the Passover Seder meal. This framework enhanced the service for both the children and the adults. Also adding meaning was the fact that the Middler Sunday school class—children too young to partake in the bread and cup—had made the communion bread. It was a service to remember.

For Brethren, love feast is one of the defining experiences of our faith community. It is cherished by born-and-bred Brethren, who can describe their childhood memories of this unique ordinance. It is also embraced by "convinced" Brethren, who discover in it the heart and soul of the people they have come to love.

Some years ago, before I was connected with Brethren Press, I dreamed about the publishing house producing a "coffee table book" that would present the Brethren ordinances lovingly and artistically. I had grown to appreciate these experiences, and thought they deserved this sort of attention. The closest we came to that wish then was a photo spread in MESSENGER (April 1992). But recently writer Frank Ramirez, one of those "convinced" Brethren, suggested a book on the love feast. The Brethren Press book team eagerly accepted the idea, quickly envisioning a "treasury" that would bring together photos, graphics, scripture, worship resources, anecdotes—even recipes. In addition to Frank's writing skills, the book (to be released next month) has been shaped by the editorial skills of Julie Garber and the graphic design of Gwen Stamm, who designed *Hymnal: A Worship Book.*

Simply called *The Love Feast,* the book celebrates this distinctly Brethren ordinance in a way that will warm the hearts of church members and catch the interest of those who observe us from outside the Church of the Brethren. It is a gift to ourselves, and it also is a gift to the rest of the world.

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

MESSENGER
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:
preinacher_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 847-742-5100
Fax: 847-742-6103

Display advertising:
rmatteson_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039
Fax: 847-742-1407

Editorial:
ffarrar_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 217-525-9083
Fax: 217-525-9269

Subscription rates:
$16.50 individual rate
$13.50 church group plan
$13.50 gift subscriptions

If you move, clip address label and send with new address to MESSENGER Subscriptions, at the above address. Allow at least five weeks for address change.

Connect electronically:
For a free subscription to *Newsline,* the Church of the Brethren e-mail news report, write cobnews@aol.com.

To view the official Church of the Brethren website, go to http://www. brethren.org.

MESSENGER is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage matter Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 17, 1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of the Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religion News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Biblical quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New Revised Standard Version. MESSENGER is published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Church of the Brethren General Board. Periodical postage paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing office, June 2000. Copyright 2000, Church of the Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0355.
Postmaster: Send address changes to MESSENGER, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

Printed on recycled paper

BRF holds Brethren Alive 2000 July 28-30

The Brethren Revival Fellowship has scheduled a conference called Brethren Alive 2000, to be held July 28-30 on the campus of Elizabethtown College, Elizabethown, Pa.

The weekend conference, with sessions continuing from Friday evening through Sunday morning, will include biblical instruction and inspiration, as well as fellowship and recreation. All ages are welcome. Cost for adults staying in dormitories is $50.

Workshop topics include "Renewal through prayer and spiritual life," "How seniors can help revitalize the church," and "What are the big roadblocks to revival and hot issues in the Church of the Brethren?"

For information write to Brethren Alive 2000, 155 Denver Road, Denver, PA 17517, or call Ken Leininger at 717-336-1287.

The Elizabethtown College centennial was commemorated in a quilt *which, now completed, hangs in the lobby of Leffler Chapel and Performance Center. The volunteer effort to make the quilt involved many members of the Church of the Brethren, including, from left, Ruth Bushong, Anna Ruth Enders, Eva Myers, Betty Bowers, Julia Gladfelter, and Debrah Giambalvo. Ruth Bushong is a member of the Mountville, Pa., congregation, and the others are members of the Hempfield congregation, East Petersburg, Pa.*

Brethren Heritage

Schwarzenau Heritage Society visits Brethren

Twenty-four members of the Schwarzenau Heritage Society visited Brethren families, congregations, and historical sites April 15-29.

The society worked closely with Brethren in establishing the Alexander Mack Museum at Schwarzenau, Germany. Members of the all-volunteer group regularly host Brethren visitors from the US and arrange overnight stays in the area. The US tour was arranged in gratitude for the selfless work of the society for Brethren over the years.

The German visitors participated in the worship service at Ephrata (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, where the group sang the German hymn "Nun Danket Alle Gott" (Now Thank We All Our God).

The guests were shown through the Ephrata Cloister, the Lancaster County countryside with emphasis upon the church houses of Brethren and Mennonites, the Peoples' Place Information Center, and the Hans Herr House, an early Mennonite residence and meeting-place.

A highlight of these days was a meeting with members of two groups of Old Order Mennonites, in the church house at Springville, Pa. Leaders of the Weaverland Conference (the so-called "Black Bumper Mennonites") and the Groffdale Conference ("Team Mennonites") took part in the session, which featured singing of hymns in German.

The guests saw rare books and historical objects at the Muddy Creek Farm Library, Denver, Pa..

The busload of German visitors traveled through the Shenandoah Valley to reach Bridgewater, Va. They saw the objects in the Reuel Pritchett Museum at Bridgewater College and the Brethren Collection at the Alexander Mack Library.

In Broadway, Va., the hosts were members of the Linville Creek Church of the Brethren. After learning about the lives of Civil War martyr John Kline and churchman M. R. Zigler, the group toured the Tunker House, birthplace of M.R. Zigler and home of 19th-century theologian Peter Nead. The historical part of their trip was coordinated by Don Durnbaugh of Juniata College, who has led many study tours through Europe.

Oregon spreads the word on nonviolence

The pastor and executive board of Peace Church of the Brethren, Portland, Ore., has written a letter to George Ryan, the governor of Illinois, commending him for his declaration of a moratorium on carrying out the death penalty in Illinois.

The letter says in part: "As members of one of the historic peace churches in the United States, and with our own denominational history of opposition to violence, we applaud your decision to halt, even temporarily, executions in the State of Illinois.

"Ending violence in our society may be an unreachable goal, but we are determined to try. Your moratorium on executions is a step in the right direction, and we hope that our own governor, Dr. John Kitzhaber, will follow your courageous lead."

Earl Ziegler marks 50 years

Some 175 persons gathered March 18 at the Lititz (Pa.) Church of the Brethren to honor Earl K. Ziegler for 50 years of ministry. Highlight of the evening was the surprise presentation to Earl of a $4,000 check for ministries in the Dominican Republic.

Those who attended had been invited to contribute in honor of Earl's ministry to a scholarship fund for university students and others in the Dominican Republic. As Earl received the check, he expressed gratitude for the response.

Earl has served the Church of the Brethren as moderator, district executive for Atlantic Northeast, and as pastor in several congregations. Ziegler, of Lancaster, Pa., retired last year as pastor of Lampeter (Pa.) Church of the Brethren and is currently serving as interim pastor of the Florin congregation, Mount Joy, Pa.—S. Joan Hershey

Judy Mills Reimer, executive director of the General Board, *takes a turn with the shovel. She is flanked by Southern Pennsylvania District executive Joe Detrick, Elizabethtown College president Theodore Long, and Children's Aid Society executive director Lori Hoffmaster.*

New Fairview breaks ground

A **large crowd came together at the New Fairview Church of the Brethren**, York, Pa., March 19 for the dedication and groundbreaking service for a planned new fellowship hall and classrooms.

Guest speakers at the dedication service that morning included General Board executive director Judy Mills Reimer, Southern Pennsylvania District executive Joe Detrick, and Elizabethtown College president Theodore Long. That service ended, appropriately, with the hymn "The Church's One Foundation."

The congregation then moved outdoors for the groundbreaking, where a stream of people took turns turning over shovelfuls of dirt in an area that had been marked off in the shape of a cross.

New Fairview moderator Donald Myers started the groundbreaking by saying, "Today we break ground and turn over the sod. May the ministry that comes from the breaking of this ground for the construction to follow be a testimony of our commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and to the honor of God."

New Fairview is one of the largest congregations in Southern Pennsylvania District, located just off a major interstate. The total cost of the project is expected to be about $1.5 million. More than half of that has already been received in contributions coming from a capital campaign.

Remembered

Brethren mourned the loss of another longtime leader recently with the passing on April 9 of **Eldon "Gene" Fahs**, vice president emeritus of Manchester College (North Manchester, Ind.) and a member of the Manchester Church of the Brethren.

Fahs retired from Manchester in December 1995 after holding a variety of positions, from registrar to assistant professor to treasurer, in a 31-year career with the school.

Among many service roles, Fahs served as chair of the board of Timbercrest Church of the Brethren Home and was a member of the Bethany Theological Seminary board and chair of its Institutional Advancement Committee. He was also a volunteer for Heifer Project International.

Mary Elizabeth Pratt, 83, died March 3 in Fresno, Calif. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, pastor Ward E. Pratt, four daughters, twelve grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren. She worked as a devoted pastor's wife, teacher, music director, and homemaker for many years.

Melvin W. Halterman, 79, of Mathias, W.Va., died Jan. 15 in Harrisonburg, Va. He was the pastor at New Dale Church of the Brethren, Lost River, W.Va., for 30 years. He was also pastor at Mountain View Church of the Brethren and served as interim pastor for the Mathias, Crab Run, Damascus, and Mount Grove congregations.

Partners oppose domestic violence

A year ago the Live Oak, (Calif.) Church of the Brethren became partners with Casa de Esperanza, an agency that provides shelter and services to women and children who have been victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. The idea was to provide education and awareness of domestic violence and to assist those in need.

The program was kicked off by a special worship service in which pastor Barbara Ober and the executive director of Casa de Esperanza, Marsha Krouse-Taylor, spoke about domestic violence in the community.

domestic violence

Over the last year a number of educational meetings have been facilitated by the Live Oak congregation, including presentations to the Chamber of Commerce, a childcare center, high school students, and the community at large. During Vacation Bible School children went through the Child Assault Prevention Program to learn how to deal with bullies and protect themselves from sexual assault.

A children's fair was hosted in the church parking lot with games, food, and face painting. Casa employees videotaped and fingerprinted area children. Funds raised went to buy clothing and craft items for children residing at the shelter.—ANNE E. PALMER

Sharpsburg honors 75 years of service

The Sharpsburg (Md.) Church of the Brethren honored Martha L. Miller in February for 75 years of service to the church. She served as Sunday school teacher and treasurer, bake sales helper, volunteer at the Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home, and volunteer at the local food bank.

"In Touch" features news of congregations, districts, and individuals. Send story ideas and photos to "In Touch," MESSENGER, *1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.*

Brethren take part in rally for international debt relief

More than 50 members of the Church of the Brethren, including groups from Brethren Volunteer Service and Bridgewater College and people from as far away as Illinois, joined a large Jubilee 2000 rally on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on April 9.

THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN SAYS...
CANCEL T
DEBT
NOW!

Mike Lawrence

Carrying the banner for the Church of the Brethren *at the April Jubilee 2000 demonstration in Washington, D.C., is a group from Bridgewater College.*

The event called for the US to cancel debts owed by many of the world's poorest nations.

The Washington City Church of the Brethren featured guest speaker Sue Wagner Fields, working on globalization issues with the Brethren Witness office of the Church of the Brethren General Board, in a special morning service before the afternoon events. The rally/public witness event, held in cold, windy conditions, featured an assortment of speakers and musicians and was followed by the creation of a human chain around the US Capitol.

Some participants stayed the following day to lobby their representatives, urging debt relief. Other members who couldn't join in the events, meanwhile, sent in paper chains and hundreds of petitions.

The rally, which drew more than 6,000 people, was sponsored by a national coalition including the National Council of Churches and Church World Service. For more on the event, see photos at www.brethren.org/pjournal/index.ht or visit the www.j2000usa.org website.

General Board giving tops $1M but still behind 1999

Gifts to the General Ministries Fund of the General Board for 2000 topped the $1 million mark during the second week of April. The milestone came more than a week later than in 1999, however, and drew attention to somewhat lower overall giving levels for the General Ministries Fund, Emergency Disaster Fund, and Global Food Crisis Fund.

The one notable exception to the trend was in the "Special Gifts" category, which was up nearly 60 percent to $115,585 on April 18, but not up enough to offset the lag in total gifts for 2000—amounting to $73,000 at the time.

Ken Neher of the General Board's Funding office expressed gratitude for the gifts that congregations and individuals are sending to support the various ministries, while encouraging others to help with the many programs supported by the funds. Neher said he expects gifts to eventually outpace those of 1999.

"When presented with the needs and opportunities of the world," Neher said, "we Brethren consistently rise to the occasion."

Julie Hostetter

At the Roundtable Regional Youth Conference *at Bridgewater, Va., Edith Burger, Jodi Eller, Katie Kirk, Jonathan Emmons, and Jan Walker work at getting acquainted.*

Two regional conferences bring youth to campuses

More than 500 youth took part in a pair of regional youth conferences held the first two weekends of April. Youth and adults from Atlantic Southeast, Mid-Atlantic, Shenandoah, Southeastern, Virlina, and West Marva districts participated in Roundtable at Bridgewater (Va.) College April 8-9, while their counterparts in Pennsylvania gathered at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College April 1-2 for Eastern Regional Youth Conference.

Shawn Replogle, a Bridgewater and Bethany Theological Seminary graduate, now pastor of the South Waterloo (Iowa) Church of the Brethren, led Roundtable participants in four sessions based on the theme "Looking Back to Look Ahead " Gilbert Romero, pastor of the Bella Vista Church of the Brethren in Los Angeles, Calif., served as keynote speaker for ERYC, on the theme "No Fear – Know God!" and also performed in a Bittersweet Gospel Band concert during the weekend.

Both events included worship, Bible study, recreation, entertainment, and fellowship. Midwestern youth met at Manchester College (North Manchester, Ind.) later in April, and western youth will come together at the University of La Verne (Calif.) in July.

US Navy presence on Vieques continues to garner attention

Hundreds gathered in front of the White House April 19 to demand that President Clinton and Congress drop "not one more bomb in Vieques, Puerto Rico," and bring a permanent halt to US Navy practice bombing of the island of 9,000 residents. The gathering marked the one-year anniversary of the death of David Sanes Rodriguez, who was killed when a Navy F-18 aircraft dropped an incorrectly targeted 500-pound bomb on the island.

Bombing has ceased at least temporarily due to the encampment of hundreds of civil disobedience activists on the military range, including members of Christian Peacemaker Teams. Brethren members Cliff Kindy, David Jehnsen, Phil Borkholder, Ambrosia Brown, Eric Christiansen, and Kurt Ritchie were among members of a CPT delegation that visited the island in mid-March, and many Puerto Rican Brethren have been active in protests there.

Jehnsen, from Galena, Ohio, described the resistance encampments as a source of hope for those who believe in nonviolence as God's way for people to struggle and change the course of history.

Church of the Brethren Washington Office coordinator Greg Laszakovits traveled to Puerto Rico in late April to meet with religious leaders seeking a halt to the bombing.

News

Duane Grady

The Cross-Cultural Ministries Team *gathering in Dayton, Ohio, included Brethren from Haitian, Korean, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, African-American, and Anglo congregations.*

Consultation addresses needs of ethnic church leadership

The third Consultation of Ethnic and Urban Churches was held March 23-26 at Mack Memorial Church of the Brethren in Dayton, Ohio. The gathering this time focused on developing leadership training models to better serve the needs of ethnic churches and their leaders. Participants in the gathering included Brethren from Haitian, Korean, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, African-American, and Anglo congregations.

Representatives from numerous Brethren and other agencies led the discussions around leadership development.

A report on the recent General Board resolution on ethnic representation for leadership positions within the church was also heard. The resolution was planned by the Cross-Cultural Ministries Team, who also planned the consultation. A similar gathering is being planned for 2001.

Youth leaders and pastors explore "God-Centered Life"

The first event of a new youth spirituality program emphasis, "The God-Centered Life," took place March 24-26 at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center in Sharpsburg, Md. The project is being sponsored by Shepherd's Spring and the General Board's Youth/Young Adult Ministry Office.

The initial weekend was designed to help youth leaders and pastors find ways to fill and maintain their "spiritual cups" in order to be more effective in assisting the youth with whom they work. The long-term goal for all participants is to develop a life that is centered on God and follows Jesus' example. The opening worship ended symbolically, with a cup of strained and purified "living water" from the center's spring served to each participant.

Paul Grout, pastor of the Genesis Church of the Brethren (Putney, Vt.) joined Chris Douglas of the Youth/Young Adult office and Shepherd's Spring administrator Rex Miller to provide leadership for the event. Worship services, workshops on spiritual disciplines, discussion, sharing of resources, a special prayer room, and communion filled the weekend.

"Every aspect of the event was carefully planned to enable each participan to experience God, encounter Jesus, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit in a complete way of living," wrote participant Joy Zepp. "We were challenged to help to prepare ground for a new paradigm, that of living life totally in the way of Jesus."

The second event in the project, a week-long camp for senior high youth, will be held at Shepherd's Spring July 2-8. Grout will again provide the main leadership. For more details, call the Youth/Young Adult Office at 800-323-8039 (e-mail cdouglas_gb@brethren.org) or Shepherd's Spring at 301-223-8193 (e-mail shepherds.spring@juno.com)

Bethany and ABC boards fill positions and plan for future

The Bethany Theological Seminary and Association of Brethren Caregivers boards each held meetings this spring, with the Bethany board meeting in Richmond, Ind., and the ABC board in Elgin, Ill.

Bethany board highlights included:

- Approving the appointment of Tim Van Meter as director of the Seminary's Institute for Ministry with Youth and Young Adults, beginning Aug. 1.
- Receiving and discussing the first draft of the next five-year Strategic Plan (2001-2006), with the final draft to be approved at the October meeting.
- Naming Earle and Jean Fike of Bridgewater, Va., as chairs of the seminary's Centennial Celebration Committee. Bethany will celebrate its centennial in 2004-05.
- The election of Guy Wampler, Jr., Lancaster, Pa., as chair; John Gingrich, Claremont, Calif., as vice chair; and Anne Reid, Roanoke, Va., as secretary.

ABC board highlights included:

- Becoming a co-owner of the High Performance Board Series, a board development tool, with Mennonite Health Services of Goshen, Ind., which initially developed the program. Members of the Fellowship of Brethren Homes may be able to schedule training modules for their boards soon.
- Approval of a process for the steering committees of its nine ministry areas to collectively elect two members to the board. The ABC bylaws, which were approved by Annual Conference, empower ministry groups to elect members to the board.
- Approval of giving caregiving awards to four individuals at ABC's recognition dinner at Annual Conference. They will go to Laura Abernathy of Lacey, Wash.; Ernest Barr of Carmel, Ind.; Shawn Decker of Waynesboro, Va.; and Tana Durnbaugh of Elgin, Ill.
- Beginning discussion of a process of long-range planning for the organization. Sessions of long-range planning will be incorporated into the next several board meetings.

Hurst honored, Lipton speaks at peace fellowship dinner

More than 100 people met at Brethren Village in Neffsville, Pa., in April for the annual spring banquet of the Brethren Peace Fellowship in Atlantic Northeast District.

In addition to the meal, two major events were on the evening program. Tom Hurst, who resigned last month after 10 years as executive director of On Earth Peace Assembly, received the group's 2000 Brethren Peacemaker of the Year award. OEPA board member Walt Moyer presented the award, with a citation for Hurst's "vision, creativity, passion, and perseverance in the cause of peace," highlighting the many programs Hurst began at OEPA.

Dr. Dennis Lipton then delivered the evening's keynote address, about his pilgrimage as a doctor in the US Air Force and his decision to become a conscientious objector, resulting in a court-martial and jail time last fall.

Grants from two funds send relief around the world

Grants were recently sent from two of the General Board's special funds to support global needs:

- The Emergency Disaster Fund sent $10,000 to support an Interchurch Medical Assistance shipment of 50 medicine boxes to Venezuela. The boxes will provide essential medicines and medical products for 50,000 people who continue to suffer from last December's devastating floods in Venezuela. This grant will cover handling, packing, and shipping of the boxes.
- The Global Food Crisis Fund sent $21,000 toward food relief efforts in famine-plagued North Korea. The funds will be used to purchase 35 metric tons of seed corn to grow grain for livestock as well as for human consumption. Work is also under way for a shipment of dairy goats to that nation this summer, using a $50,000 grant approved last year plus additional donations being sought.

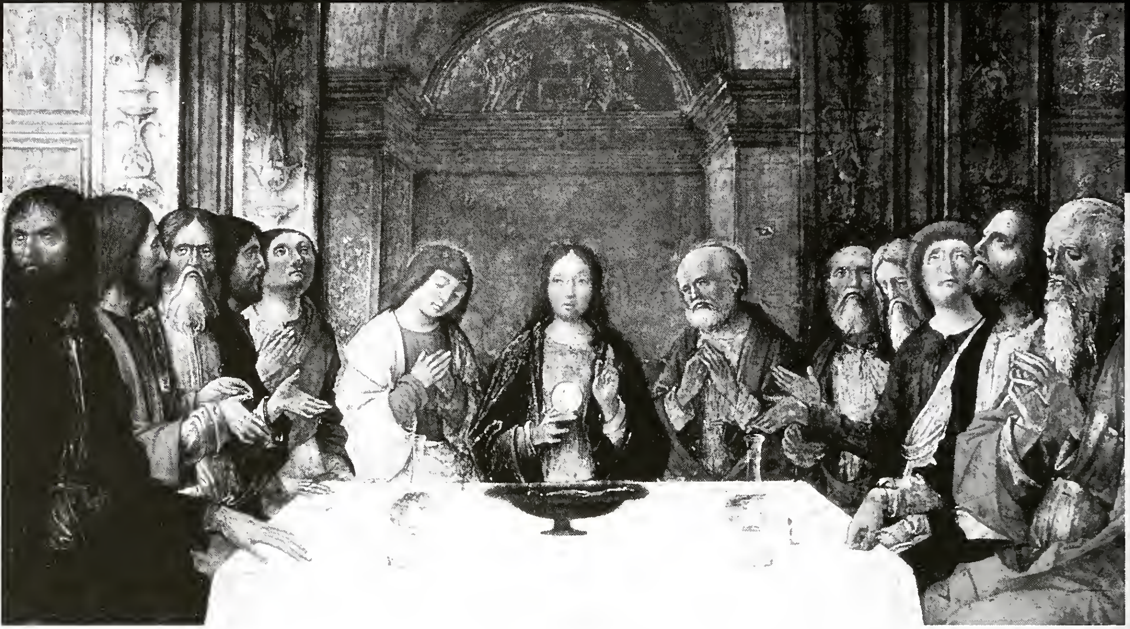
Another $50,000 from the fund has been approved for the unfolding drought crisis in the Horn of Africa, especially Ethiopia. The funds will be a part of a $1 million Church World Service appeal; the Brethren grant will provide 310 metric tons of grain, providing more than 25,000 daily rations.

In addition, a $15,000 grant will go to the Western Service Workers Association of Orange County, Calif. The association provides emergency food relief, legal advice, dental care, and a variety of other services to its mostly Hispanic constituency.

Personnel announcement

Lowell Flory, who served as moderator of the 1999 Annual Conference, will begin as director of planned giving for Bethany Theological Seminary July 1. Flory will be part of the institutional advancement staff, designing and carrying out an expanded strategy for planned gift development. He will also be available for teaching roles in the fields of stewardship, organizational leadership, and business and finance.

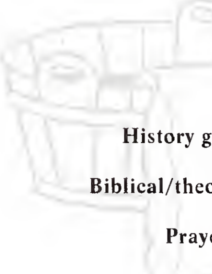
Flory is currently professor and chair of the Department of Business and Economics at McPherson College, McPherson, Kan., where he has served on the faculty since 1983.



The Institution of the Eucharist, by Ercole de Roberti

A better way to do church business

Worshipful-Work invites God's spirit to preside



History giving/storytelling.

Biblical/theological reflection.

Prayerful discernment.

Visioning the future.

What is this new language being heard around the church? A new fad . . . or a fresh wind from the Spirit?

As a pastor of 30 years working to build up congregations as the body of Christ, I find Worshipful-Work a valuable way of recognizing God's presence in our midst. Worshipful-Work, with its spiritual practices, is a way of doing ordinary church business as a sacred trust and an opportunity for worship, forming congregations through their decision-making processes into vibrant Spirit-led faith communities much as we see in the New Testament.

Worshipful-Work as a spiritual practice assumes that

– the risen Christ is present and active in the local congregation (Matt. 18:20; Rev.1:9-22).

– the voice of God is still speaking and can be heard in the church.

– it is possible to discern and know the mind of Christ (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 2:14-16).

Worshipful-Work, through these basic practices, creates an environment for boards and committees to 1) listen for God's voice, 2) discern the mind of Christ, and 3) celebrate Christ's presence.

These ideas and practices grow out of a five-year-old ecumenical ministry, headquartered in Kansas City, Mo., called Worshipful-Work: Center for Transforming Religious Leadership. The group conducts retreats and seminars, circulates a newsletter, and publishes books on ways to integrate spirituality and church leadership. Its website is at www.worshipfulwork.org.

A primary text for Worshipful-Work is Romans 12:1-2, which reads as paraphrased:

"I urge you my brothers and sisters who serve on church boards, because of the mercies of God, to offer the stuff of your life—the agendas of your meetings—as a living sacrifice, for this is your 'worshipful work.' Do not allow your meetings to be conformed to the board cultures of the latest management theory, but allow your meetings to be shaped and transformed by God's Spirit. Then you will be able to discern the good and complete will of God."

Four Worshipful-Work practices help create space for the Spirit to move and transform decision-making meetings into life-affirming experiences.

1. History giving/storytelling. Storytelling creates identity and a sense of community as persons share experiences from both their personal

Worshipful-Work provides hope that the table of the Board can be transformed into the table of the Lord, and everyone around it might sense again God's presence and God's call.

and congregational lives since the last meeting. This creates a meaningful environment for listening to the "minutes" of the last meeting.

2. Biblical/theological reflection.
This practice invites a group to clarify their values, beliefs, and purpose by a careful meditative listening to relevant scripture passages, punctuated by periods of silence in which people can wonder and meditate on the messages they are hearing. This practice creates a common foundation for discerning the mind of Christ.

3. Prayerful discernment.
As a spiritual practice, this style of decision-making invites members of the group to share information and listen to each other until they reach agreement about the best option for action at the present time. Prayerful discernment combines discussion and periods of prayer (silent, individual, and corporate), forming a process that allows a group to move beyond often divisive voting to an open, respectful listening for God's voice.

4. Visioning the future.
This practice recognizes that envisioning is an ongoing process of lifting up the church's future before God in prayer. Proverbs 29:18 states, "Where there is no vision, the people get out of hand" (NJB). This text invites us to see vision as God's gift that comes as we create prayerful space within our decision-making to listen for and to see what God is working through us.

The current interest within the Church of the Brethren to incorporate the spiritual practices of Worshipful-Work reflects a deepening desire for a prayerful integration of spirituality in decision-making. Worshipful-Work promises to bring new vitality to our work and our worship.—Larry Fourman

Larry D. Fourman is pastor of Crest Manor Church of the Brethren, South Bend, Ind.

Worshipful-Work at the Seminary

The Ministry Formation area of study at Bethany Theological Seminary is an ideal setting to explore the implementation of Worshipful-Work in the training of persons for ministry. We work with the practical aspects of the work of ministry through field education, spiritual formation, and theological reflection.

In 1996, I was introduced to Chuck Olsen and began to implement some of the concepts of Worshipful-Work in meetings with the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren in Pleasant Hill, Ohio.

After accepting an appointment to the seminary, I began to envision Worshipful-Work as a way to help our students live into an understanding that our work and our worship are one. Each year, second-year master of divinity students visit the spring General Board meeting. In preparation for last year's visit, the students read an introductory text for discernment in community and discussed the implementation of Worshipful-Work they observed during the meeting.

These same students and several from this year's class received training in Worshipful-Work in Elgin and again later at Bethany. Several students are now pursuing additional training through an independent study focused on Worshipful-Work and planning events in the area.

Students are using the Worshipful-Work methods with their teaching committees, in their ministry settings, in the construction and reflection on case studies, and in other areas of ministry formation.

Linda Lewis, a senior at Bethany, has used Worshipful-Work with the church board at Beavercreek (Ohio) Church of the Brethren, where she serves as a student pastor. She remembers her first church board meeting to discuss the budget as being a rather difficult meeting. People spoke in loud voices and across each other and it was a tense and unproductive time. By the final budget session, the board was meeting in the sanctuary, sitting in a circle, with hymnals and Bibles available. They spoke to each other. There were periods of silence, scriptures read and hymns sung. People were attentive to God's presence in their midst.

"It was a moving experience," Lewis said. "That simple change in location is one I hope to try again during my ministry."—Tara Hornbacker

Tara Hornbacker is professor at Bethany Theological Seminary, Richmond, Ind.

A solution for the church bored

At the first Worshipful-Work workshop I attended I was a part of a conversation about board meetings and their ability to be "life depleting" or "life giving." There were plenty of people present who had come out of meetings with a yawn, or frustrated by the lack of depth in the discussion. Sometimes we think things like: Why are we here? What is the point? What a boring way to pass 2 or 3 hours! And we feel at a loss to change.

Worshipful-Work calls leaders to recognize that the church should do things differently when coming together to do business. Through the use of worship centers, prayer, music, silence, scripture, storytelling, litany, and more, Worshipful-Work provides a process of discernment, rather than "parliamentary procedure."

Worshipful-Work encourages relationship-building around the table as individuals share pieces of their own life stories, as well as share about the life story of the congregation. Board members respect and listen to one another as together they seek to explore who we are as God's people, and what God is calling us to do.

The Church of the Brethren has always valued building relationships among its people and has valued discerning work to be done within a firm sense of spiritual grounding. Worshipful-Work uses elements of worship and storytelling to continually remind us who we serve, and to listen for God's yearnings for us.

Walt Wiltschek

Using Worshipful-Work practices at General Board meetings *often calls for hymns at key points during business. Here Stafford Frederick, veteran board member and pastor of the Olathe, Kan., congregation, leads the singing.*

As we practice Worshipful-Work in our congregation, we are making a huge shift. Before, we were enduring a meeting. Now, we are gathering in God's presence to share about the ministry of our congregation.

We often have a worship center in the middle of our table, sometimes with candles, sometimes with things that depict a theme we are discussing or working on. We have hymnals and Bibles present, should we choose to share a story that depicts what we are dealing with, or sing a hymn that will help us to celebrate something or bring us into some reflection time. We don't always just talk about our business. We sing, pray, tell stories or experience silence together. We might take a walk around the church or eat ice cream together as we think about an issue before us.

Worshipful-Work is not a program; it is a way of being about the work of the church. It is not a prescribed way of doing things; rather it is a bag of tools. The tools can be used to build relationships, to worship, study scripture, tell stories, and more.

Worshipful-Work provides hope that the table of the Board can be transformed into the table of the Lord, and everyone around it might sense again God's presence and God's call.—Erin Matteson

Erin Matteson is pastor of Faith Church of the Brethren, Batavia, IL

Introducing a spiritual presence to Annual Conference

When the Church of the Brethren General Board met in October 1998, Mary Jo Flory-Steury, chairperson, introduced a new model for doing the business. Rather than continue meeting as corporate managers of the larger church, she envisioned engaging the faith experiences of the General Board members to inform the way they conduct the work of the denomination. She proposed doing Worshipful-Work, based on Charles M. Olsen's *Transforming Church Boards into Communities of Spiritual Leaders* (The Alban Institute, 1995).

Moderator Emily Mumma attended that board meeting. She left yearning for Annual Conference to experience a similar worshipful atmosphere when we gather in July at Kansas City, Mo., (which happens to be the home base for the Worshipful-Work organization). She remembered too well the many stories of people who felt marginalized by denominational programming and the win/lose atmosphere of Annual Conference debate. Could we find a better way to conduct business?

At the August 1999 Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee, Sister Mumma suggested that we try the Worshipful-Work model. When the committee met again in November, her proposal for Worshipful-Work was met with several questions: How will the business meeting be shaped? Won't this model take up too much time? What do we do when controversy arises? Will people be given enough time to speak so that all views will be heard? Who controls the flow of the business session, the moderator or the guest spiritual consultant? Do we dismiss Roberts' Rules of Order?

At Moderator Mumma's request, Sister Ellen Morseth, staff mentor with the Worshipful-Work organization, met with Program and Arrangements. Moderator Mumma recommended Sister Ellen serve as spiritual director for the business sessions during the Kansas City 2000 Annual Conference. Sister Ellen explained her purpose would be to work alongside the Annual Conference moderator, suggesting interjections of spiritual practices as they are deemed important and suitable to the gathering. She would serve at the invitation of the moderator and bring spiritually vital, relevant, engaging, and enriching additions from our faith heritage to the ordinary business.

Sister Ellen also explained that her role would be that of a spiritual director who tends to the heart of the business meeting. She would respond to the dynamics of the meeting, inviting the naming of God's presence at various times. These invitations to God's active presence could come in a variety of ways:

- scripture passages or stories that are related to the current conversation;
- denominational stories relevant to the matter at hand;
- liturgical and theological responses to poignant moments, suggested from the chair or from the floor;
- spoken prayers—intercessions, thanksgivings, blessings, etc.;
- silence and prayers that surface out of silent reflection;
- singing of hymns, i.e., a refrain, particular verses in response to reports, etc.;
- focused conversation: a word/phrase/sentence that comes to mind during particular segments of the meeting;
- prayerful or reflective activities during break times;
- creating and tending a simple environment, e.g., a candle, the Scriptures, a growing plant, a banner, a projected image on a screen;
- encouraging the group to rejoice, lament, etc., using simple and prayerful rituals;
- connecting the opening and closing worship services (its themes, segments, rituals) with aspects of the meeting.

With this explanation, the Program and Arrangements Committee agreed to introduce Worshipful-Work at Annual Conference this year. The Annual Conference officers will work with Sister Ellen to shape the business sessions in a worshipful manner. Plans are being made to inform Standing Committee members and first-time Annual Conference delegates prior to Conference, so they may have a sense how the business sessions will flow.

Annual Conference in Kansas City this summer already offers a new format, which leads nicely into Worshipful-Work. Saturday evening opens conference with worship. Sunday morning follows with another worship service. The worshipful setting extends into Sunday afternoon, when guest worship resource leader David Haas will lead a musical celebration to open the first business session.

With the addition of a spiritual director for the business sessions of Sunday evening, Monday, and Tuesday, and Wednesday morning, perhaps we can experience Annual Conference as a revitalized gathering in faith. And, we anticipate a common ground in which we discover God speaking to and moving among us as Brethren.

The visionary of Worshipful-Work, Charles Olsen, says in the introduction of his book, *Transforming Church Boards*, that "this enterprise is . . . an intention to recover a broad-based biblical familiarity and seriousness, an effort to imprint in our minds, hearts, and lips the metaphors of Scripture" so that our church structures can "function out of the heritage of a rich faith tradition." This gathering of church members and leaders is "the most opportune place to exert influence for transformation [which] is at the heart of the life of the church."
—PAUL ROTH

Paul Roth is pastor of Linville Creek Church of the Brethren, Broadway, Va.

Houses

FOR HURRICANE REFUGEES

The Church of the Brethren helps 32 Dominican families find hope and a home

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS
BY SALLY JO CARACHEO

Nov. 16, 1999, was a memorable day for 32 families in the Dominican Republic. This was the day they learned which of the 32 houses they had been helping to build since the middle of May would belong to them. Finally they could say, "This is my new home and I helped to build it."

The Church of the Brethren also helped to build these new houses for "refugees" whose houses had been destroyed by Hurricane Georges in 1998. The General Board's Emergency Response/Service Ministries office provided construction materials and sent project managers to supervise the project. Also, ER/SM paid skilled workers to build concrete floors, do carpentry work, and build roofs on the houses.

The project was done in cooperation with the Catholic church, which provided the prop-

Letters from the Dominican

While she was a BVS volunteer working on the Azua housing construction project, Sally Jo Caracheo wrote detailed letters home to family and friends. Here are some excerpts:

July 26, 1999
(my 62nd birthday)

My day starts around 5:30 or 6 when I get up, dress, have some time for devotions, and go across the street to the restaurant for breakfast. As driving in the DR is taking your life and everyone else's in your hands, I decided not to drive. Luis Cespedes, the pastor of a local Church of the Brethren congregation who also is the construction boss, picks me up around 7:30 to go to work. It takes about 15 minutes to get to the site, which is on a hill about 10 miles out of Azua. During this time we discuss the progress of the work, any problems which have arisen, anything we need to deal with, etc.

At the site Luis gathers all the workers, describes the work to be completed that day, and assigns the paid workers and the volunteers their various jobs. There is always some lighter work assigned to the women. Several days we have carried the boards used in framing the houses from one location to another. One day we carried buckets of water for mixing cement. Often I spend periods of time picking up used nails from the ground. These are later

Workers mix and pour concrete *in the forms to make the six-inch-thick walls.*

erty for the houses, and the Dominican government, which provided construction supplies and facilitated the delivery of water, sand, and gravel to the construction site. Oxfam International and the International Red Cross also contributed.

From Aug. 1 until the completion of the project, I was a BVS volunteer, serving as the project manager. I worked closely with Luis Cespedes, who is the Dominican Church of the Brethren pastor of the Azua congregation and a construction contractor. Cespedes was in charge of the construction. Other Brethren who worked on the project include Ken and LouElla Imhoff, Donald Snavely, Becky Crouse, Jim and Wilma Baile, and Charles Stevens.

These 32 houses are part of a project of 400 houses the government plans for hurricane victims on the hillside outside Azua.

During the initial planning stage, the refugees agreed that their contribution to the project would be the labor of digging two-foot footers for the foundations, mixing concrete and pouring the walls, plus any other manual labor that needed to be done. The agreement was that someone from each family would work four of the six working days in each week.

At first, progress was slow and the refugees didn't believe that the project would ever be completed or that they would ever receive a home. Consequently, few workers showed up each day to work. As the work progressed, however, more and more persons came to help. During the last few months there was someone from nearly every household who worked four or five days a week. Two of the husbands who had jobs in Santo Domingo stopped working there and came to Azua to work at the project in order to ensure that their families would receive a house.

Each of the refugees has a story. **Magali** was clearly the acknowledged leader of the refugees. She went to meetings with the planning groups and acted as advocate during the entire project, in spite of the fact that in July she suffered a coronary thrombosis, which caused paralysis of an arm and a leg. Through sheer will and constant exercise, she worked her way back to health. By November she was once again at the work site, carrying buckets of water and big boards on her head.

Pilito worked on the houses nearly every day there was work to be done. He said that if he was to receive a house, then he had the responsibility to help build. More than 60 years old, he worked all day in the hot sun with pick and shovel helping to dig founda-

straightened and reused.

I am very happy to be here and feel that this is where God has called me to be to do His work.

In His service,
Sally Jo

Aug. 13, 1999

I'm writing from the home of the Crouse family in Santo Domingo to share a few details of my life living in a hotel in Azua....

To bed by 9 o'clock with a fan blowing on me all night, partly because of the heat and partly to discourage mosquitos which have free access, as the cantilevered windows have no screens.

...Two of the things I miss most, besides family and friends, are classical music and beautiful flowers. However, the mountains all around are beautiful and up on the third floor of the hotel I've seen some gorgeous sunsets. There is a big tree across the street which is covered with orange flowers. The tree is called "flamboyan" or flamboyant....

The pace of my life here is very different than in the States. Much of my time is filled with no physical activity whatsoever. For the first time in my life I can BE instead of DO....

Luis (Cespedes), the pastor and the one in charge of this project, is the hardest working, most conscientious person I've ever seen. He has a wife and three young sons. His wife is expecting another child in October. He has a small congregation in Azua made up of a few families and some young boys. He is the treasurer for the Church of the

Brethren here in the Dominican Republic. He is also the builder for churches. He appears to be able to do anything connected with construction. His ability to find the most economical solutions to problems of material seems unlimited. He has many connections which help to get much material donated for free or for the cost of transporting it....

I feel that I am exactly where I should be and that this project will come to successful completion before the middle of November when my BVS term is completed. I feel my prayer that God would send me for my BVS project where I was most needed and where all that I am and have experienced could be used has truly been answered.

In His service,
Sally Jo

Sept. 7, 1999

Personally I am experiencing a peace and joy which has been absent from my life for a long time. The companionship of the paid workers and the refugee community are a constant source of learning and discovery. I now know the names of all the refugees who come regularly to work.

It's very hard to describe the kind of poverty that they live in. They are sustained by rice and beans provided by the Red Cross. Some families of five or six have only one or two plates and one or two spoons. I've seen workers on the site eating their food with their fingers because there are no spoons. In spite of this they come to work nearly every day to help build their houses....

There is a tremendous

Building a future for their four children. *Miguel, his wife, and children in the doorway of their newly built home.*

tions. Toward the end of the project he was not well, but he continued to come every day, even though he had only enough strength to carry buckets of water. One day when he was asked about his family, he said he married his wife when they were 13 years old, and they had raised 18 sons and daughters. He said his wife was the love of his life.

Ingrid cooked the noon meal for the refugees. The meal consisted of rice and beans every day. For some of the workers, this was the only substantial meal they received all day. Ingrid was "allowed" to do the "easy" work of cooking because she was expecting a child. The work included using a machete to cut branches of a tree for firewood.

Miguel or his wife worked nearly every day building the houses so that their four children would have a home. His children have never been to school. The oldest daughter spends most of her time helping her mother or taking care of the younger children.

Felix is fortunate enough to have a motorcycle, which he uses to take his oldest daughter to school. She is one of only five children among the refugees who actually attends school. One day when Felix was using his motorcycle to earn a little money for the family he was involved in an accident which bruised his ribs and resulted in a big scar across his chest. Nevertheless he was back at the work site the next day.

amount of manual labor to be done on the houses in the space of less than two months or so, especially when you realize that many of these persons are malnourished and subject to a lot of medical problems.

I still feel that I am in the right place at the right time. God is good. I am even happier now having received from my sister the welcome gift of a tape recorder and tapes of classical music.

In Christ's name,
Sally Jo

Oct. 10, 1999

Things are going very well for me here in Azua. We are making great progress on the homes. There are just a few houses to finish pouring the walls. The government officials have said they would send the wood and zinc for the roofs, doors, and windows this week. If that happens, we will be able to finish all the houses by the time I leave in the middle of November....

I started teaching an English class at the Church of the Brethren here in Azua three nights a week. We have had a steady attendance of around 10 students for the English class almost every night. They are very interested in learning English....

My relationships with the refugees who come to work every day has deepened and we have become like a large extended family. Each of the refugees has a story of their own, as does each of us. I feel that I have been privileged that they share so openly with me.

In His love,
Sally Jo

Ingrid, the cook, *provided the noon meal for the workers.*

November 16 was the lottery *when the workers pulled numbers out of a hat to determine which of the houses would belong to them.*

Before Christmas all of the 32 homes were finished with concrete floors and wooden doors and windows. The refugees who received the homes in Azua are grateful to the Church of the Brethren and all who helped to make it possible for them to have good, sturdy homes to live in with their families. The street that is located between the houses will be named "Calle de los Hermanos," or Street of the Brethren.

Sally Jo Caracheo, of Elgin, Ill., is a retired schoolteacher and a bilingual educator, fluent in Spanish. She is a member of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin.

What is your church learning?

Choose resources that apply biblical truths to everyday life.

For Adults
Guide for Biblical Studies
Good Ground
Covenant Bible Studies

For Youth
Generation Why

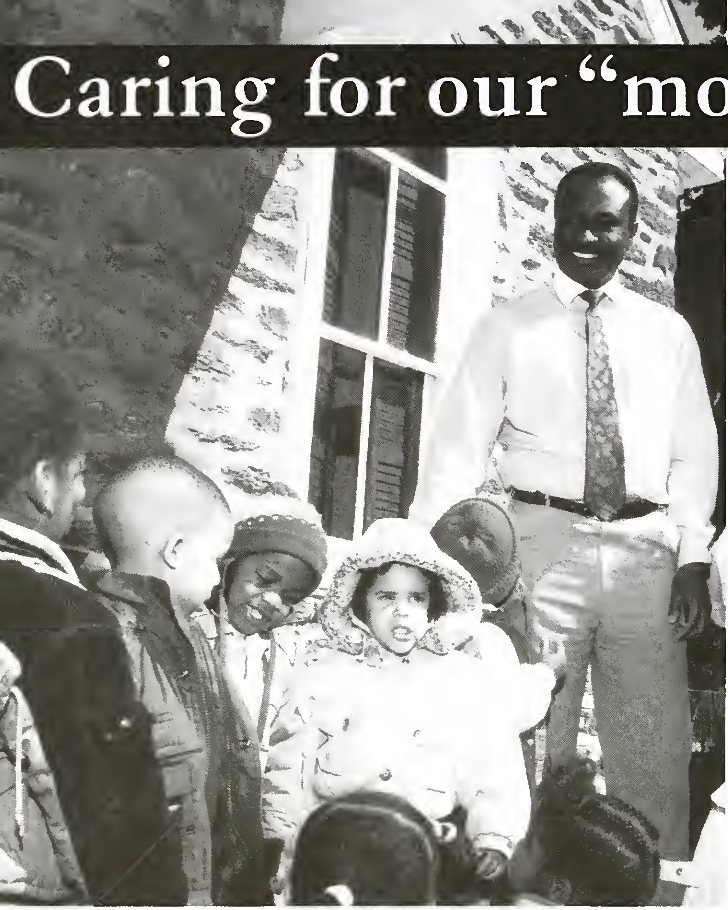
For Children
Jubilee: God's Good News

Choose Brethren Press!
Curriculum by Brethren, for Brethren

Brethren Press
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

Caring for our "mother" churc

Germantown Trust plans a new project for 230-year-old historic site



Richard Kyerematen, pastor of the Germantown (Pa.) congregation, *stands in front of the historic building with a group of his young parishioners. Photo was taken in the early 1990s.*

BY KEN SHAFFER

Today **the Germantown Church** of the Brethren, in Philadelphia, Pa., is both an active inner-city congregation and a Brethren historic site. The congregation has a program that includes worship services, Sunday school, a food pantry, daycare for preschool children, family counseling and education, extensive youth outreach, and transitional housing for recovering substance abusers. Leading the predominantly black congregation of over 80 members is pastor Richard Kyerematen.

As a Brethren historic site, the Germantown church is visited each year by tour groups from across the country. These groups come to see the stone meetinghouse and the cemetery. The meetinghouse, built in 1770, had both a loft and a basement. The loft was used for sleeping by people who traveled a distance to attend love feast, which lasted for two days. The basement was used to prepare food during love feast. Today the loft is gone, but there is in the meetinghouse a series of panels depicting events in Brethren history plus some artifacts.

The cemetery was established in 1793. There are over 1,000 people buried in the cemetery, including Brethren leaders such as Alexander Mack, Sr.; Alexander Mack, Jr.; Elizabeth Mack; and Peter Keyser. Hannah Langstroth Drexel, the Brethren mother of Katharine Drexel, was originally buried in the cemetery, but Hannah's body was moved in 1946. Katharine Drexel was a Catholic nun noted for work with minorities. Procedures are currently underway in the Catholic church to raise her to sainthood.

Germantown played a major role during the early years of Brethren life in America. The congregation was organized on Christmas Day in 1723 and is therefore the first Brethren congregation in the New World. On that day the first baptism was performed and the first love feast was held. When the meetinghouse was built in 1770, it was the first Brethren meetinghouse in America.

The congregation flourished in the 1700s but declined during much of the 1800s. With the leadership of Wilbur Stover, who later became a pioneer missionary in India, and the leadership of Milton C. Swigart, the congregation experienced renewal in the 1890s and early decades of the 1900s. The size of the congregation peaked in 1934 with over 450 members. Membership declined in the 1940s and 1950s, and the congregation was disorganized in 1964. Because of an intentional effort in the 1980s to reestablish a worshiping community, a fully functioning congregation now exists at Germantown.

In 1982 the Church of the Brethren General Board established the Germantown Trust to care for the site. The congregation and the trust are separate entities. The trust maintains the building and grounds and provides for historical interpretation of the site, while the congregation has its own budget used to support its programs and services. Funds for the trust come from a yearly grant provided by the General Board, a cemetery legacy, and occasional donations given by Brethren groups and individuals.

In addition to the day-to-day maintenance, the trust is responsible for special maintenance projects. Over the years these have included a new heating system, a new kitchen, and new concrete paving. Soon to begin is a project to install a new toilet facility for people with disabilities, a new exterior wheelchair-accessible entrance, a new water service, and a new 200-amp electric service. Bids indicate that this project will cost $90,000 to $95,000. While the trust has $55,000 on hand for the project, additional funding is needed. Information about the project is available from the trust by contacting Joseph H. Hackman, chair of the trust, at 1613 Brent Road, Oreland, PA 19075.

Contributions may be sent to Church of the Brethren General Board, Restricted for Germantown Trust Project, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120.

Ken Shaffer is librarian/archivist for the General Board at the Brethren Historical Library and Archives. He is an ex-officio member of the Germantown Trust.

Germantown played a major role during the early years of Brethren life in America. Organized on Christmas Day in 1723, it was the first Brethren congregation in the New World.

on Earth peace

Position Available

On Earth Peace Assembly, Inc., a 25-year-old Church of the Brethren peace education movement, seeks Executive Director applicants.

Responsibilities include envisioning, designing, and implementing peace education strategy and program.

Experience preferred with management, fund-raising, and nonviolence education.

Seeking person with strong commitment to the centrality of peace and reconciliation in the mission of the church, and management skills consistent with the values of nonviolence.

For more information contact us: OEPA, PO Box 188, New Windsor, MD 21776; oepa@oepa.org; 410-635-8704; or www.brethren.org/oepa.

New Tools to Talk about End of Life

Choosing Death with Dignity

Church school classes, small groups and families will find many discussion points within *Choosing Death with Dignity: A Study Guide on Death, Bereavement and Burial.* Written by Graydon Snyder, this 12-page booklet provides a biblical and Brethren context for considering end-of-life issues. The case studies and questions following each section are useful tools for classes and families to begin talking about and planning for the future.

Available through ABC — $2.50 plus shipping and handling.

End-of-Life Decision-Making
Choosing Death with Dignity: A Study Guide on Death, Bereavement and Burial

Living With Dying

This 24-page book is the *Carroll County Times*' account of Dale Aukerman's life with and death from cancer. The stories and photos from this daily newspaper provide an indepth view of the way this loved and respected advocate for peace and simple living approached his death.

Living With Dying: The Carroll County Times' Account of Dale Aukerman's Journey will be available at Annual Conference and through ABC — $9 plus shipping and handling.

Association of Brethren Caregivers

To order these Lafiya resources, call the Association of Brethren Caregivers at (800) 323-8039.

Alexander MACK IS

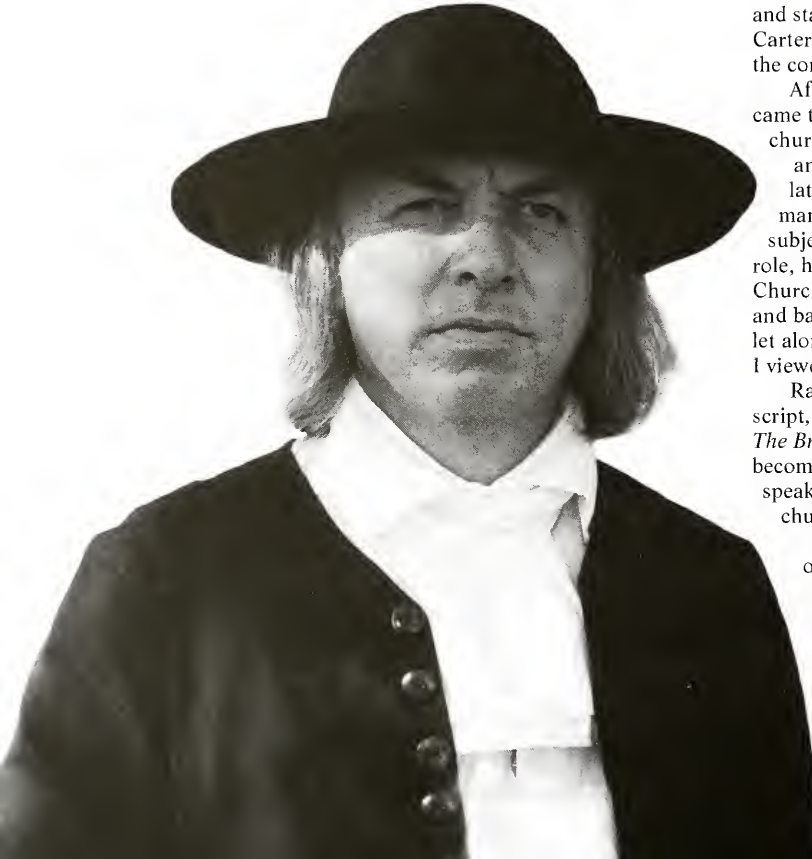
Casey Drudge makes history and faith come alive

BY JEANNE JACOBY SMITH

Four years ago Casey Drudge of Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren, Fort Wayne, Ind., never expected to metamorphose as Alexander Mack, the elder churchman known as first minister and leader of the German Baptist Brethren in 1708.

Yet circumstance and Casey's willingness to serve have resulted in 60 performances of the elder Mack. The electronic technician-turned-actor in his spare time has traversed 11,000 miles to share Mack's story with more than 4,500 people in churches throughout the denomination.

What drew Casey to the Mack role? Was it the message? Or his love of drama? Neither, he admits. Even writing the centennial history of the Church of the Brethren in Fort Wayne, Ind., did not heighten his desire to know more about Alexander Mack. He claims little theatrical experience except for playing the role of Professor Willard in Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* in his teens. (Later, he was devastated to learn that Professor Willard was probably added to the script to increase the number of actors in the high school version of the play.)



Casey's involvement with Brother Mack happened quite by accident, he says. In the fall of 1996, Phyllis Carter, former moderator of Annual Conference, served as interim pastor of the Lincolnshire church. Near Halloween that year Pastor Carter decided to stage an "All Saint's Day Special." Because the Brethren are a bit short on saints, Casey relates, the pastor highlighted various heritage heavyweights such as Dan West, Anna Mow, and Alexander Mack. Casey agreed to dress the part of Mack and stand in the front of the sanctuary while Carter read a description of his character to the congregation.

After that brief enactment, an invitation came to share Mack's biography with a church school class, followed by an appearance at a church board retreat. Months later, when asked to repeat the performance, Casey researched his intriguing subject more thoroughly. Reflecting on the role, he says, "I had been a member of the Church of the Brethren for nearly 50 years and barely knew who Alexander Mack was, let alone how or why he did whatever he did. I viewed it as a historical challenge."

Rather than writing and memorizing a script, however, Casey immersed himself in *The Brethren Encyclopedia* with intentions of becoming so fluent with the facts that he could speak spontaneously, as though he were the church elder coming back to the future.

To his surprise, among the guests on the scheduled performance day were Blair and Pat Helman, former Manchester College president and Brethren author. Though concerned that he could not live up to his esteemed audience's expectations, he recomposed himself and proceeded as planned, moving comfortably into the persona of

BACK

Alexander Mack. In the hour that followed, he poured out his innermost thoughts about Mack's life as a prosperous community leader who, because of his faith, relinquished his wealth to help others. Because Mack and his followers rejected the ties between established churches and the German state, they were pursued in earnest by the authorities.

No one was more surprised than Casey at his fluency that morning. He admits to hear-

Arts group finds a home for Mack Haus painting

A highlight of Casey Drudge's portrayal of Alexander Mack occurred last summer when he served as a delegate at Annual Conference in Milwaukee.

Enamored with Mack, Casey was delighted to discover at the Association for the Arts silent auction an acrylic on wood painting of Mack's home, today known as the Alexander Mack Museum in Schwarzenau, Germany. The wood, he discovered, was retrieved from the home where historians believe Mack lived in the early 1700s in Wittgenstein.

In 1993 a group from McPherson College in Kansas traveled to Schwarzenau, Germany, to explore the Brethren heritage. One of the faculty sponsors, Jeanne Smith, asked their German host whether it was possible to retrieve a small piece of wood from the museum. Depending on the size of the wood, she hoped to create a family memento, possibly a painting of the Mack home.

Explaining her quest, Smith says, "Alexander Mack was my great grandfather, eight greats to be exact. When visiting Schwarzenau, I experienced a transcendence of history and time. My great-grandfather had walked those streets; he affirmed his faith boldly in that special place. Against the powers of his day, he took the vows of baptism in the Eder River. The ambiance about the town had such a powerful effect on me that before we left, I requested our host to escort us to the museum one last time."

The next morning the host drove his guests to the top of the hill towering over the hamlet of Schwarzenau and the Eder River meandering through the valley below. Approaching the museum, they discovered a farmer tending animals in the barn attached to the house. In German, the host translated the unusual request.

The farmer disappeared into the barn, then emerged with a board discarded, he said, when the home was remodeled as a museum in 1992. Discovering that it was too long for Smith's luggage, he again withdrew into the barn and returned with the slab cut in half.

In the summer of 1998, with half a dozen photos of the house in hand, Smith shared her idea with her artist sister, Mary Shank of Gettysburg, Pa. Shank agreed to create a composite drawing of the home, then to paint it onto both slabs of wood. Together, they decided to donate one painting to the Association for the Arts at Annual Conference and to keep the second as a family memento.

When Casey Drudge, Alexander Mack impersonator, discovered the painting available at the silent auction at Annual Conference in Milwaukee last year, he resolved to purchase it. Keeping tabs on the bids, he planned to return just before the auction closed Saturday to bid one-up on the previous aspirant. When Casey entered the exhibit hall that morning, he was dismayed to learn bids had closed Friday night. Greatly disappointed, he told his wife that someone else purchased *his* Alexander Mack memorabilia.

Sisters Mary Jacoby Shank and Jeanne Jacoby Smith *pose with their family's picture of the Alexander Mack Haus. The sisters are great granddaughters of the elder Mack.*

Several weeks later, Casey presented the conference report to the Lincolnshire congregation, at his pastor's request, in costume. Just before he began, another conference attendee interrupted the service to present him with the painting. In his words, "I was totally speechless—an uncommon situation for me."

Unknown to him, his wife had conspired with church members to purchase the work of art using an alias name, then plotted a way to surprise him. Had he actually made an offer, he would have bid against his own wife.

The Alexander Mack Haus finally found its home.

The author wishes to thank Dr. David Eller of the Young Center at Elizabethtown College, Pa., for editing. Eller reports that he also placed a bid on the piece — but lost.

I try to capture my understanding of Alexander Mack in my meager, humble way. That's enough for me.

ing himself speak thoughts he had never entertained before. The elder Mack's testimony, when shared in its totality, expanded his understanding.

"I didn't know where the words were coming from.... Then I realized," he says, "that God was in control." Casey began, in the midst of the presentation, to plan for a future with Brother Mack. He was further encouraged when the Helmans reported that he had done "just fine."

Demand for performances since then have exposed him to larger numbers of Brethren so that in some circles his name has become synonymous with the church leader. Casey takes special pleasure when people call him "Alexander" at church, at Annual Conference, and at his favorite locale—Camp Alexander Mack in Indiana. More recently, requests have come to play the role from other Brethren groups that also claim Mack as forebear.

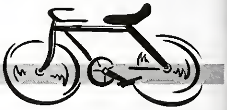
Today Casey inspires audiences throughout the denomination with his Alexander Mack Living Heritage Program. He does not attribute success to his acting abilities, but rather to the power of Mack's story and to his audiences' interest in learning about Brethren roots. In the meantime, he is committed to immersing himself in Brethren history between Mack and the present time, to further enrich presentations.

Yet it is not so much Mack whom he represents, Casey says, "but the elegant, useful message in the New Testament Church so sought after by Mack and his followers back in 1713. I don't pretend to be a preacher, but I do greatly enjoy telling people how our denomination began and ... explaining our faith to them. Do I think that I am a close copy of Alexander Mack? Perhaps, but only in appearance, and even then I can't be sure. Do I believe that I think like Mack? No, I'm not that presumptuous, but I try to capture my understanding of him in my meager, humble way. That's enough for me." And judging from the response of the audiences, it must be enough for other Brethren, as well.

Persons interested in the Alexander Mack Living Heritage Program may inquire about fees and availability by contacting Casey Drudge at 6405 Londonderry Lane, Fort Wayne, IN 46835. Phone: 219-485-4906. E-mail: cdrudge@concentric.net OR casey.drudge@carrier.utc.com.

Jeanne Jacoby Smith is associate professor of Curriculum & Instruction/English at McPherson College, Kan., and a member of the McPherson First Church of the Brethren.

Brethrening



How a bike averted disaster

This was my first assignment with the Cooperative Disaster Childcare program, which provides therapeutic play for children who have gone through disasters, while their parents do what they need to do to start recovery. I spent two weeks in New Bern, N.C., up to my elbows in playdough, taking care of the children of Hurricane Floyd flood victims while their parents talked to the Red Cross about future needs.

Playdough, painting, stuffed Elmo and Big Bird, and cars were all played with, but our biggest draw was the simplest: a dishpan filled with five pounds of rice and two sets of measuring cups for pouring the rice back and forth. I'm sure psychologists could have found significance in the children being able to create order out of chaos—the truth was, the rice just felt good. Some sat there for over an hour, happily pouring and wiggling their fingers in the rice. (Me too!)

Many of the children's conversations were touching, and it was sobering for me to consider what life is like when you have lost absolutely everything and don't have many resources to start over. One mother said, "We just got our trailer and lot paid off and added a front room, and it was under water to the roof." When another woman was told she would have to discard her grandmother's quilt and her kids' baby clothes because of the water damage, she wept.

The child who made me weep was the little boy who talked about losing all his clothes and his stuffed toy; then he said, "But at least I can be glad my bike didn't get ruined." "Was it inside?" I asked. "No," he said, "it was in the pawnshop."—Patti Sprinkle

This is taken from an article that appeared in the newsletter of First Church of the Brethren, St. Petersburg, Fla. Phil Lersch, pastor of the St. Petersburg congregation, and his wife, Jean, are longtime friends of Patti Sprinkle, a Presbyterian, an author, and an anti-hunger advocate, who lives in Miami, Fla.

MESSENGER *would like to publish other short, colorful, humorous or poignant stories of real-life incidents involving Brethren. Please send your submission to* MESSENGER, *1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120-1694 or e-mail to the editor at ffarrar_gb@brethren.org.*

HUNGER FOR JUSTICE

Christian Citizenship Seminar takes youth to power

Smith & Barber
fx.com

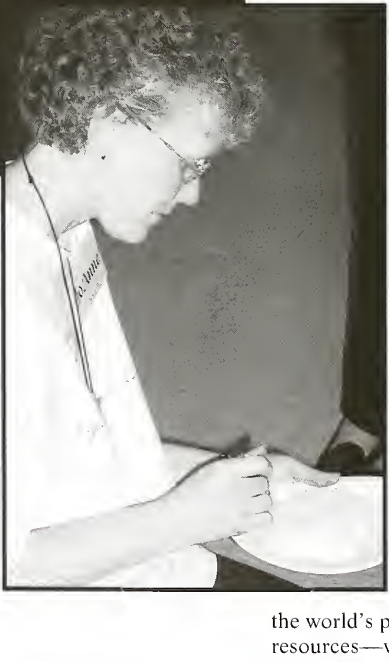
Youth of Today: *These Brethren youth rose early to get in position outside the "Today Show" in New York. Their enterprise paid off when they got a brief chance to tell the nation that they were learning ways to fight hunger at the Christian Citizenship Seminar. Pictured from left are Nick Siegrist, Corinne Lipscomb, Martha Fuchs, Nicole Oetma, Heather Nace, and Phil Mackey.*

BY WALT WILTSCHEK

A **large group of people sat clustered** in a small area of floor space, a scoop of rice balanced on the flimsy plates before them. Kneeling or sitting, they could gaze out at their rich neighbors enjoying a sumptuous dinner at a cloth-covered table set with flowers. Some looked longingly at the plentiful food denied them, while others took more active measures to get some themselves.

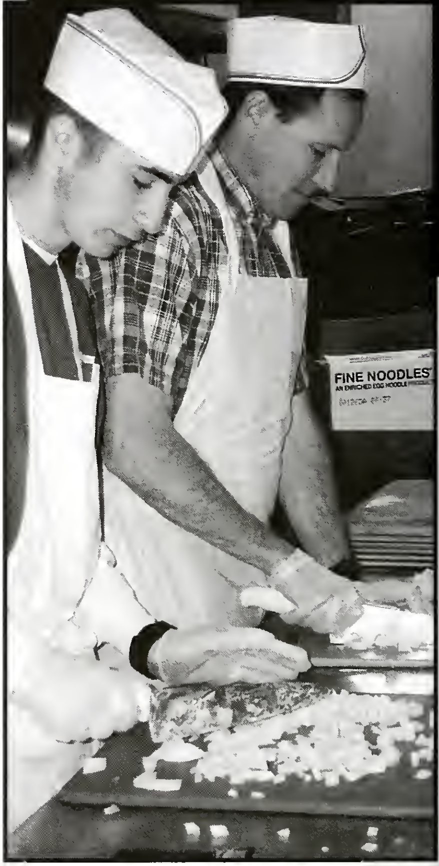
In this case, the inequity was planned—a simulated "hunger banquet" near the end of a Church of the Brethren Christian Citizenship

JoAnne Foreman of Pitsburg, Ohio, *along with more than half of the Christian Citizenship Seminar participants, found themselves in the low-income group during a hunger banquet designed to illustrate the world's unequal distribution of resources. The group received only rice on a paper plate and no table or seat.*



Walt Wiltschek

Ron Shriver and advisor Ed Palsgrove, *of the Union Bridge (Md.) Church of the Brethren, peel potatoes at the Food & Friends service project in Washington, D.C., which delivers meals to AIDS patients in a wide radius around the city.*



Walt Wiltschek

Seminar week. For millions of people around the world, however, the inequities are real, and that's why the 100 Brethren youth and advisors from across the country came—not just to sightsee, but to learn and to respond.

The six-day event, which begins in New York City and ends in Washington, D.C., is sponsored by the General Board's Youth/Young Adult and Washington offices and is held annually except for National Youth Conference years. It seeks to relate current events and issues with one's faith, particularly from a Brethren perspective. This year's theme was "Hungering for Justice," looking at local and global hunger issues.

"The hungry people of the world aren't just victims," said David Radcliff of the Brethren Witness office, who spoke at two sessions during the seminar. "They're people like you and me with hopes and dreams. They often just need a tiny step up, and that's often beyond their reach."

Radcliff showed slides from trips to Central America, Sudan, and North Korea as he sought to help the group "look hunger in the face," as Brethren have done throughout the years. A new drama written by Radcliff and based on the story of the rich man and Lazarus helped to illustrate the issue from a biblical perspective.

Other speakers took up the topic during the six-day seminar, too. David Wildman of the United Methodist Church spoke about the work of the United Nations, its headquarters visible through a window behind him as he addressed the group in New York.

He asked participants to look at the clothes they were wearing to see what countries produced them, then did a visual representation of the world's unequal resources. Two youth in the demonstration had ample room to spread out—representing the 20 percent of the world's people who hold 85 percent of the resources—while eight others sat stacked in an uncomfortable pile.

"We don't choose our parents or the communities we're born into," Wildman said, "but we do have choices about how we live our lives and use our resources."

Another powerful session came on the final evening of the seminar, following the hunger banquet. Church of the Brethren member Steve Brady, who works with the National Coalition for the Homeless, showed a touching audiovisual presentation and then facilitated a panel of three people who talked about life on the streets of Washington, D.C.

One of them, Larry, managed to intersperse humor and lively stories while describing the loneliness, low self-esteem, and depression he'd endured. He signed a lease for an apartment for the first time in January but said, "Some of the best people in the world are on the streets right now."

Another of the panel members, named Don, urged participants not to become callous

Joe Fennel and Justine Martinez, *of the Live Oak (Calif.) Church of the Brethren, wash used trays at the Washington City Church of the Brethren soup kitchen, one of six service projects where Christian Citizenship Seminar participants worked this year.*

and to respond to the homeless they see, quoting the Bible passage of "entertaining angels unawares." Often even better than giving money, he said, is to respond as if that person were a fellow human being, talking to them and saying, "God loves you."

Youth worked at responding during the seminar, too, taking what they had learned and seeing it put into practice. One morning in Washington was dedicated to service projects, with youth and advisors traveling to six sites around the city. Five of those were soup kitchens or food delivery agencies, and the sixth, called Community Harvest/Urban Oasis, grew food for a farmers' market in a low-income neighborhood that has no supermarket.

In the afternoon of that same day, youth and advisors split into groups from their respective states and districts to visit senators and representatives on Capitol Hill, sharing the information they had learned during the week and urging support for hunger causes in Congress—particularly for a current bill called the Hunger Relief Act.

Some of the groups met with aides, but several of the representatives and senators met with the CCS visitors personally, despite a busy week in Washington.

Youth were also urged to act within the Church of the Brethren, especially through the General Board's Global Food Crisis Fund. Radcliff, who manages the fund through Brethren Witness, unveiled plans to fly 200 dairy goats to famine-wracked North Korea this summer, and challenged all the youth present to each raise $100 toward that effort.

"The problem is a lot bigger than I ever thought it was," said Corinne Lipscomb of Springfield, Ill., who planned to speak on the issue at church and raise the $100 when she returned home. "It seemed absolutely huge. Hopefully I can do something about it."

An initial $200 also came from CCS advisors after youth demonstrated their knowledge of hunger issues in a game called "Who Wants to Feed the Hungry?," earning $20 per correctly answered question.

"You've come because you want to learn something about this, and to me that's very hopeful," Radcliff said to the group. "It takes bravery—call it Christian commitment—to step into that other world not so far away and let it trouble you, and then trust God to show you what to do next."

By the way, the youth and advisors all received a plentiful spread of pizza and soda a few hours following that hunger banquet, filling up all those who had subsisted on meager meals earlier. For the world's truly hungry people, however, the feasts don't come so easily, and youth were forced to wrestle with their place in the issue.

"You're not sure what you can do about the problem because you're part of the majority that's causing the problem," said Chris Palsgrove, a youth participant from the Union Bridge (Md.) church. "You have to step away from things and look at how you can change."

Walt Wiltschek is manager of news services for the General Board.

Mess
Church of the Brethren Janu
The Gifts
for the Peop
THERE'S AN EASIER WAY TO SHARE MESSENGER WITH A FRIEND
January/February 2000 www.brethren.org
senger
s of God
ple of God

First-time subscribers can get a full year of MESSENGER for just $6.75, less than 62 cents an issue.*

INTRODUCING MESSENGER...

...AT HALF THE PRICE!

Introductions are sometimes awkward.

But those who get to know MESSENGER find it is a great way for Christians to expand their local Christian witness by becoming acquainted with the global mission and ministry of the Church of the Brethren.

More congregations are learning that providing new or prospective members with a subscription to MESSENGER introduces them quickly to the exciting work of the Brethren.

This introduction just got easier. Because it is half-price. Please help introduce MESSENGER to those in your congregation who don't receive MESSENGER.

For details call 800-323-8039, ext. .

Messenger

---

* The only requirement for the introductory rate is to subscribe through a local congregation.

Letters

I have learned from such personal experiences and I try to teach others that there is hope for depression, before it becomes so bad you cannot control it, it controls you.

A family and mental illness

I am writing in response to "What churches can do for the depressed" (April). That was one of the best articles I have ever read, and I was so pleased to see mental illness looked at for the disease that it really is.

I have suffered from mental illness now for 30 some years, since I was in my 20s. I have been hospitalized many times. In the 1970s when I went into depression, I first thought I was a freak of nature, and was very embarrassed when I returned from my very first hospital stay in a mental health facility. Now, I am a spokesperson on the illness of depression and its sometimes deadly effects.

On Nov. 15, 1989, my life and that of my husband and our daughter changed forever. Our very precious son took his own life after a bout with depression from a couple months before graduation from high school up until the fall, when life became too much to deal with. No one told me years earlier, when I had my first bout with depression, that it could show up in my children also. Well, it sure did, because our precious daughter, now 31 years old, also was diagnosed in her 20s with bipolar depression.

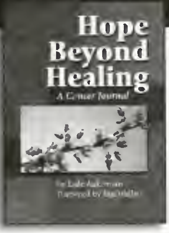
I have never been ashamed of my mental illness, my daughter's, or the way our son died. Instead I take what I have learned from such personal experiences and try to teach others that there is hope for depression, before it becomes so bad you cannot control it, it controls you. I don't want to have to see another parent lose their child to this awful disease.

I speak up to all young folks everywhere to get to someone you can talk to and let them know you are getting depressed.

Now there are so many excellent

"If we suddenly find ourselves face to face with dying, we come up against ultimate questions.... After I received the diagnosis of advanced lung cancer, I needed to deal with those questions more intensely than I ever had before."

—Dale Aukerman



Hope Beyond Healing: A Cancer Journal by Dale Aukerman available now from Brethren Press for $14.95 plus shipping and handling charges.

Brethren Press
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

Annual Conference 2000

Monday, July 17-5 P.M.
Praising God with a New Rhythm
Becky and Jerry Crouse-speakers

Church-As-Mission Dinner Series
"The Church is to missions as fire is to burning"

Tuesday, July 18-5 P.M.
The Missional Congregation
Lois Barrett-speaker

Buy both tickets before July 5 and save $4.
Sponsored by Global Mission Partnerships and Congregational Life Ministries

medications that can help. My daughter and I are both functioning much better with today's newer medications for bipolar illness. One can fight the battle of depression with the help of good counseling also.

In the article where depression is referred to as "lethal," I can tell you for a fact it can be. If you are reading this today, though young or old, don't let the stigma from depression stop you from seeking help. It is well worth the effort, for life and God are both beautiful things in this world.

If I reach just one person out there, I thank God for that. This is written in loving memory of our son, Donald R. Trimmer, and for our precious daughter, Lisa.

Linda M. Trimmer
West York Church of the Brethren
York, Pa.

It's you.

It's us.

It's up and running.

www. brethrenbusinessnetwork.net

Providing Superior Care for Your Peace of Mind

EVERYTHING YOU WANT
IN A SERENE YET CONVENIENT COUNTRY SETTING.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING IN CROSS KEYS VILLAGE
- HARMONY RIDGE APARTMENTS OR COTTAGES

DINING - PLANNED ACTIVITIES - TRANSPORTATION
ON-CAMPUS BANKING & MEDICAL FACILITIES

ASSISTED LIVING CENTER
- SHELTERED NEIGHBORHOOD
- PRIVATE ROOMS WITH BATH
- HEALTH CARE CENTER
- HOUSEKEEPING

EVERYTHING YOU NEED
- SUPPORT SERVICES
- HOME HEALTH SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE (ALZHEIMER'S) UNIT
- CROSS KEYS SUBACUTE CENTER
- ADULT DAY SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE UNIT
- NURSING CARE
- RESPITE CARE

MEDICARE/MEDICAID APPROVED

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Christian care since 1908

2990 CARLISLE PIKE - P.O. BOX 128
NEW OXFORD, PA 17350-0128
1-888-624-8242
WWW.BRETHRENHOME.ORG

The Brethren Home Community

Clearing up Shepherd's Spring

Like Walt Wiltschek comments in his article in the Jan./Feb. MESSENGER article "A different kind of church camp," of the quiet water of the small spring trickling through the camp surrounding it, there trickle through the article some errors which need to be clarified.

The article states that the camp bears the name of the spring. After the land was purchased for the new camp there was a competition for naming the camp. The one who submitted Shepherd's Spring apparently was inspired with the idea of the Good Shepherd and the refreshment of the spring. After that entry was selected and given to the new camp it was natural for the spring to get the name as well. We did not know of the spring having a name before.

The article says the Potomac River marks the camp property's boundary. Actually the camp land is bounded by National Park Service land over which the tow path of the old C&O Canal runs.

The article states, "The camp's owner, Mid-Atlantic District, closed beloved facilities at Camp Woodbrook, slated to be a reservoir in Maryland, and Camp Shiloh in northern Virginia." It should have said "...closed beloved camps Woodbrook, then slated to become a reservoir in Maryland, and Shiloh in Virginia, which was located outside the boundaries of the district as it had been realigned."

The article should have included mention of the long hours contributed by the development committee in planning for the camp, then the construction committee, which worked with Rex Miller until the original facilities were completed, and a tribute to the large number of volunteers who gave time and skills in carrying out various aspects of building and program. There are also better pictures of the spring.

Wayne F. Buckle
Falls Church, Va.

Classified Ads

INVITATION

The New Beginnings Church of the Brethren, located 50 miles east of Kansas City, Missouri, invites Brethren traveling to Annual Conference to stay overnight. Facilities available for camping, 16 miles south of I-70 on Highway 13(S) at southeast edge of Warrensburg. Contact pastor, Jane Davis, 800 E. Hale Lake Road, Warrensburg, MO 64093-3042, phone 660-429-6215, e-mail <jeneherda@iland.net.

Visiting Washington, D.C.? Come worship with us at the Arlington Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St, Arlington, Virginia. Phone 703-524-4100. Services: Sunday School 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Summer Hours: June 4 thru September 3. Worship 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School. Nursery Services Provided. Roseann B. Cook, Pastor.

The York Center congregation in Lombard, IL will celebrate 50 years of ministry in 2001. To kick-off our anniversary we will have a celebration weekend August 12 and 13, 2000. If you have been a part of the York Center family we hope you will join us for this celebration. For more information call the church office at 630-627-7411 or e-mail Pastor Christy Waltersdorff (cwaltersdorff@mindspring.com).

POSITION AVAILABLE

Executive Director for a new alliance of five Brethren and Mennonite-related retirement communities in southeast Pennsylvania. Must have a Bachelor's degree (Master's preferred) and at least five years of executive leadership, preferable in healthcare. Must be able to take initiative and work collaboratively with five other CEO's. Must have ability to bring diverse resources and systems together and think "outside the box." Good administrative and financial skills also important. Brethren or Mennonite church affiliation preferred, but not essential. Must possess good moral character. Send resume to Mennonite Health Services, 234 South Main St., Suite 1, Goshen IN 46526, or fax to (219) 534-3254, or e-mail: timstair@compuserve.com by June 15, 2000.

Christian Family Practice group is seeking a family physician to join our growing practice. We are located in North Central Indiana, near Goshen. We provide obstetrics with many deliveries done at an Amish Birthing Center near Shipshewana. Opportunities for short- or long-term missions. Independently owned (six physicians & one PA) and committed to remaining sensitive to the needs of the local community. Option to buy in. Contact Steve Wendler, Administrator, at Middlebury Family Physicians, PO Box 459, Middlebury, IN 46540. Day telephone: 219-825-2900 Evening: 219-825-7506.

Director of Food Services. Camp Bethel is looking for a Director of Food Services, FT with benefits. Contact Camp Manager, 328 Bethel Rd, Fincastle, VA 24090 or e-mail: camp.bethel@juno.com or visit us at www.campbethelvirginia.org.

The journey from here

A report on the state of the church

Judy Mills Reimer
Executive Director, General Board

Messenger Dinner
5 pm, Sunday, July 16
Kansas City

Join Messenger for a relaxing dinner, then hear the executive director of the General Board deliver her "State of the Church" address, a report on where we are and where we're going as a denomination at the beginning of the new millennium. Program concludes in time for the evening business session.

Please order tickets in advance. There may be no on-site ticket sales. Call the Annual Conference office at 800-323-8039 to order.

Turning Points

This month's Turning Points includes all listings received prior to 4/4/00 not previously published.

New members

Ambler, Pa.: Amber Shaw, Lea Kononchuk
Brandts, St. Thomas, Pa.: Dennis and Marian Mills, Karl Frey, Robin and Megan Unger, Lindsey Hollenshead, Tracy Clevenger, John Hunt, James Snider, Kayla Snyder, Mandy Ferree, Pauline Harmon, Linda Heckman
Brook Park, Ohio: Samantha Bova, Patrick Cronan, Linda Cronan, Robert Ryan Cronan, Brittany Hornyak, Christopher Schmid
Champaign, Ill.: Shirley Webber, Dawn Blackman
Dixon, Ill.: Alan Mackey, Kathy Mackey, John Munson, Joel Wiseman, Amy Wiseman, Steven Magnafici, Laurie Blackburn, Gary Lee, Cody Winters, Shayla Brooks, Aaron Brooks, Tiffany Mekeel, Jacob Mekeel
Dupont, Ohio: Cher Stoker, Paul Garrison, Loyce Garrison, Kelly Sarka, Sis Hacker, Dalton Hacker, Jeff Messer
Elizabethtown, Pa.: Becky Tann
Eversole, New Lebanon, Ohio: Erin Curliss, Megan Howard, Rhonda and Don Fugate
First, Ligonier, Pa.:Noel McLeary
First Central, Kansas City, Kan.: Benson Mwihaki, Judy Burr, Jane Smith
Friendship, Linthicum, Md.: Jane-Adair Seleski
Geiger, Friedens, Pa.: Wayne and Marie Erbe
Greensburg, Pa.: Michael Hamley, Steven Perry, Amanda Waugh
Independence, Kan.: Arthur D. Arnwine, Darryl L. Deering, Winona K. Deering
Lansing, Mich.: Marybeth Braddock, Carol Baker, CarolAnn BrunDelRe
Linville Creek, Broadway, Va.: Mark Rothnathon, Velda Keller, Maxine Strawderman, Gina Ritchie
Logansport, Ind.: Bill Fickle, Tiffany Close, Bill Kite, Heather Close, Chris Good, Eddie Hannah
Lower Deer Creek, Camden, Ind.: High McKinley, Joe Slate, Alan and Brenda McLearn-Montz, Barberie Edging
Maitland, Lewistown, Pa.: Linda Wallick
Maple Grove, Ashland, Ohio: Randy Keener, Kay Keener, Krissy Keener
Markle, Ind.: Jacob Chambers, Mossy Crispin, Candy Marshall, Loyal and Betty Pursifull, Justin O'Reilly
Mechanicsburg, Pa.: Earl Goodwin, Jacob Kumler, Audrea Rofensperger, Matthew Rider, John Seigle, Scott and Cheryl Spicer, Lavinia Stough, Barbara Cisney, Jeffrey and Rebecca Bailey, Heidi Graci, Reta Mundwiler, Traci Rabenstein, William Replogle
Middlebury, Ind.: Betsy Garber, Don Mockler, Don and Tanya Paulus, Robin Paulus, Ann Troyer Schmucker, Penny Lantzer, Meribeth Miller, Melissa Adams, Travis Kauffman, Roman Anderson
Mohican, West Salem, Ohio: David, Lisa, Jordan, and Michaela Hohider, Richard and Susie Gortner
New Paris, Ind.: Rex Eisenhour, Burton Clemens, Joan Hein, Mark Miller
Nokesville, Va.: Franklin D. Sanford, Nelson D. Sager, James R. Funkhouser, Cynthia L. Yohn, Andrew T. Yohn, Kelsey N. Nelson, Pamela J. Evans, Lindsey E. Haywood, Michelle L. Iverson, Kristie A. Hall, Melanie Pittman
North Liberty, Ind.: Alan Holderread, Ashley Houser
Peters Creek, Roanoke, Va.: Mabel Naff, Geraldine Plunkett, Anna Mae Plunkett, John Showalter, Ted and Ruby Spradling, Kathleen Crum, Willard Flora, Cory Lowe, Jack Lowe, John Lowe, Carl Stump
Pleasant View, Fayetteville, W.Va.: Ruth Riner, Victoria Vandall, Linda Vandall, Jeff and Patricia Ashwell
Pyrmont, Rossville, Ind.: Doris Lane Patrick
Sebring, Fla.: Harold Banwart, Lois Banwart, Paul Kemble, Miriam Kemble, Don Kepler, Ruth Kepler, Donna Redifer, John Slotter, Mary Slotter, Jillian Snoke
South Waterloo, Waterloo, Iowa: Ron and Denise Flory, Paul and Mildred Holliday, Paula Sturtz
Springfield, Coopersburg, Pa.: Brian and Donna Grube, Amanda Grube, Kent Holschwander, Gary Kramer, Meredith Kramer, Samantha Kramer, Harold Romig, Marilyn Rufe, Keith Wolf, Jr.
Tucson, Ariz.: Clifford Eicher, Dorcus Eicher, Gordon Adkins, Linda Adkins, Veronica Velazquez, Robin Palmisano, Virginia Fisher, Gary Fisher
Waynesboro, Pa.: Lisa Hall, Larry and Jean Mellott
Welty, Smithsburg, Md.: Nicole Shockey
Wenatchee (Wash.) Brethren-Baptist: Jorge Vargas, Dayle Rushing, Robin Rushing
Waterford, Calif.: Esther Davis, Frank Kumar
West Goshen, Goshen, Ind.: Karmen Frey
West Richmond, Richmond, Va.: William Jenkins

Wedding anniversaries

Anderson, Harry and LaVonne, Mt. Morris, Ill., 55
Bergy, Keith and Barbara Jean, Caledonia, Mich., 55
Budd, Lois and Raymond, Ashland, Ohio, 50
Chase, Ted and Dorothy, Defiance, Ohio, 60
Deaven, Thomas and Ruth, Harrisburg, Pa., 55
Dixon, Fred and Martha, Akron, Ohio, 50
Engel, Raynard and Donna, Waterloo, Iowa, 50
Funk, Charles and Ruth, New Oxford, Pa., 55
Garrison, Howard and Mary Elizabeth, Mt. Morris, Ill., 55
Geesaman, Paul and Blanche, Grantville, Pa., 55
Gilbert, John and Martha, Staunton, Va., 65
Heckman, Galen and Laura, Mercersburg, Pa., 50
Haworth, Paul and Virginia, Pembertville, Ohio, 60
Heister, Allen and Daisy, Annville, Pa., 50
Heusinkveld, Leland and Patricia Ann, Preston, Minn., 50
Hinson, Carl and Verla, Erie, Pa., 55
Hoffman, Robert and Ann, Waynesboro, Pa., 50
Hoover, Charles and Reges, Martinsburg, Pa., 60
Hurst, Earl and Martha, Palmyra, Pa., 55
Keyser, Gerald and Margaret, Lowell, Mich., 60
Kintner, George and Virginia, Adrian, Mich., 55
Kulp, Robert and Anna Mae, Manheim, Pa., 50
McCaman, Sam and Donna, Lorida, Fla., 55
Malone, Max and Betty, Goshen, Ind., 50
Metcalf, Wallace and Mary, Brunswick, Md., 50
Mock, Clair and Ruth, Alum Bank, Pa., 70
Montel, Enid and Ernie, Tipp City, Ohio, 55
Nicodemus, Allen and Kate, Boonsboro, Md., 50
Pritts, Russell and Thelma, Fort Hill, Pa., 55
Reynolds, Fred and Dee, Madrid, Iowa, 50
Rigney, Doyle and Mildred, Bridgewater, Va., 50
Rowe, Ray and Ruth, Frostproof, Fla., 55
Russell, Albert and Viola, Jacksonville, Fla., 60
Sexton, Cliff and Eileen, Lorida Fla., 50
Shelly, Harlan and Betty, Manheim, Pa., 50
Stauffer, Guy and Ruth, Bradenton, Fla., 55
Switzer, Walter and Marilyn, Waterford, Calif., 50
Talbot, Richard and Kathleen, Sebring, Fla., 50
Thomas, Bernard and Jeane, Sebring, Fla., 50
Trinks, Ervin and Alice, Abbottstown, Pa., 55
Weaver, Frank and Enid, Lorida, Fla., 50
Wine, Gerald and Arlene, Enders, Neb., 50
Wine, Ralph and Margaret, Mt. Sidney, Va., 55

Deaths

Aldinger, Herman, 81, Lancaster, Pa., Sept. 10
Alley, Helen, Bridgewater, Va., April 1
Alwine, Ivy, 99, Annville, Pa., April 2
Andes, J. Gilbert, 87, Remington, Va., March 18
Barrett, Steve, 104, Miami, Fla., Sept. 3
Baumgartner, Pauline, 86, Decatur, Ind., April 2
Beard, Clifford, 83, Enders, Neb., Feb. 1
Bixler, Russell, 72, Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 30
Bonney, Willard Donald, Ollie, Iowa, Feb. 18
Boone, Robert, 76, Greenville, Ohio, March 2
Brandeberry, Floyd, 83, Goshen, Ind., April 13
Brooks, Beulah, 86, Dexter, Mo., Dec. 17
Brown, Sandra L., 54, Loysburg, Pa., Dec. 24
Brumbaugh, William R., 66, Duncansville, Pa., Oct. 7
Callahan, Mary E., 84, Linville, Va., Feb. 9
Caplinger, Fred A., Sr., 59, Martin, W.Va., Feb. 1
Caricofe, Allen H., 73, Stuarts Draft, Va., March 27
Carr, Bernice Marie, 97, Bloomfield, Iowa, Jan. 11
Carr, Jane, Sebring, Fla., Nov. 7
Cave, Wilmer, 82, Grantville, Pa., Feb. 20
Church, Doctor Grant, Winston-Salem, N.C., Nov. 27
Clark, Robert R., 83, Easton, Md., March 16
Click, Rilla, 86, New Lebanon, Ohio, April 17
Cline, Nellie E., 86, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 15
Conn, Mae, 89, Somerset, Pa., Oct. 26
Cox, Mary c., 84, Mount Solon, Va., Feb. 10
Crumley, William C., Knoxville, Tenn., March 28
Crumrine, Mabel, 83, Greenville, Ohio, March 14
Cupp, Russell T., 92, Dayton, Va., March 9
Dearth, Janet, 83, Dayton, Ohio, Feb. 17
Deuel, Clarence "Art," 42, Latrobe, Pa., April 13
Dibert, Thomas S., 74, Bedford, Pa., Feb. 28
Diehl, Robert, 86, West Alexandria, Ohio, March 31
Dodson, Nola, 86, Fayetteville, W.Va., Jan. 4
Dove, Clifford, 88, Nokesville, Va., Feb. 22
Dupras, Edmund, 59, Live Oak, Calif., Feb. 10
Eberly, Goldie, Toledo, Ohio
Ebersole, I. Lynn, 88, La Verne, Calif., Dec. 22
Eisenbise, Bernetta, 80, Elizabethtown, Pa., Oct. 24
Ensign, C. David, La Verne, Calif., Jan. 25
Fishburn, Aubrey F., 97, Lawrence, Kan., Feb. 12
Foltz, Helen, 79, Annville, Pa., March 27
Fruth, Glenn, 84, Quinter, Kan., Jan. 20
Funkhouser, Margaret, 74, Moorefield, W.Va., March 19
Gingrich, Ada, 85, Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 5
Glick, Anna V. H., 91, Timberville, Va., Feb. 22
Gochenour, Bessie, 89, Woodstock, Va., Feb. 19
Godfrey, Marvin R., 69, Glen Rock, Pa., Feb. 28
Graham, James, 65, San Dimas, Calif., Feb. 4
Green, John D., Sr., 86, Johnsville, Md., March 8
Gregg, Odessa, 98, Tecumseh, Mich., March 8
Grimm, William E., 100, Altoona, Pa., Feb. 25
Grossnickle, Maurice, 81, Burkittsville, Md., March 5
Hanson, Mary Katherine, 79, Boone, Iowa, Feb. 10
Harman, David M., 76, Kansas City, Kan., March 18
Harmon, Garland B., 86, Petersburg, W.Va., March 24
Heatwole, Betty J., 67, Mt. Crawford, Va., Feb. 5
Heatwole, Merle Eugene, 92, Prescott, Ariz., March 1
Hedge, Kathleen Fink, 83, Roanoke, Va., Jan. 14
Henderson, Lovita, Mt. Morris, Ill., March 19
Herbold, Vera M., 83, Kingsley, Iowa, March 7
Hess, Ethel, 91, Hanover, Pa., Feb. 17
Hockman, Joan, 56, Charles Town, W.Va., Feb. 17
Hoffer, Paul, 80, Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 17

Holdiman, Floyd, 82, Hudson, Iowa, Jan. 2
Hoover, William, Sebring, Fla., October
Horton, Truman Lee, 92, Sebring, Fla., Aug. 14
Hostetter, Chub, 74, Palmyra, Pa., Feb. 4
Houston, David, 44, Ashland, Ohio, Feb. 1
Howes, Geraldine, 82, Kaleva, Mich., Feb. 25
Huffman, Mary L., 75, New Carlisle, Ohio, Jan. 26
Hurst, Florrie, Sebring, Fla., Sept. 11
Jarrett, Edgar M., Sr., 79, New Enterprise, Pa., Nov. 20
Jessen, Otto, 94, Cedar Falls, Iowa, April 5
Keener, Steven M., 39, New London, Ohio, Jan. 12
Keeney, George C., 38, New Freedom, Pa., March 22
Keppen, Harold, Spring City, Pa., Dec. 26
Kibler, Scott A., 21, Altoona, Pa., Sept. 25
Kiger, Edward Clark, Lynchburg, Va., Feb. 6
Kimmel, Homer, Olympia, Va., April 10, 1999
King, Ruth, 77, Lorida, Fla., Jan. 24
King, William A., 48, New Enterprise, Pa., Sept. 26
Kinsey, Judy K., 60, Ligonier, Pa., Jan. 21
Kiser, J. Lloyd, 93, Dayton, Va., Feb. 28
Klucher, Robert H., 75, York, Pa., March 16
Knapp, Lenna, 96, Greensburg, Pa., Aug. 31
Knighting, Calvin N., 76, Harrisonburg, Va., March 4
Konkey, Virginia, 73, La Porte, Ind., April 1
Kreider, Warren, 89, Palmyra, Pa., Dec. 9
Kurtz, Eleanor M., 90, San Diego, Calif., Feb. 24
Landes, Charles H., 64, Cicero, Ind., Feb. 18
Layser, Patricia, 56, Lebanon, Pa., Jan. 10
Lecklider, Ralph, 85, Greenville, Ohio, March 23
Leiter, Lewis, 66, Wooster, Ohio, Feb. 24
Lenker, Dorothy, 94, Greenville, Ohio, March 4
Lewis, Violet H., Glen Burnie, Md., Nov. 29
Liggett, Juanita, 76, North Liberty, Ind., March 9
Lininger, Geraldine, 74, La Verne, Calif., March 19
Lockett, Larry L., Lewistown, Pa., March 21
Ludholtz, Allene, 79, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 10
McCurdy, Frances, 87, Greensburg, Pa., Oct. 8
McNett, Robert E., 82, Lima, Ohio, Feb. 8
Manley, Alfred A., 84, Iowa City, Iowa, Feb. 10
March, Dottie, 56, Willards, Md., Jan. 5
Martin, Eugene, 59, Waynesboro, Pa., Feb. 13
Martin, Joseph R., 79, Goshen, Ind., Feb. 8
Metzger, La Rue, 84, Mechanicsburg, Pa., Feb. 27
Metzger, Lester Clifford, Boise, Idaho, April 4
Miller, Betty L., 74, New Carlisle, Ohio, Dec. 14
Miller, Paul, 76, Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 13
Miller, Rosa L., 78, Baker, W.Va., March 6
Miller, Sally, 76, Hollidaysburg, Pa., Dec. 1
Miller, Sarah Jane, 78, Bridgewater, Va., Feb. 8
Mitchell, Dorothy B., 72, Independence, Kan., Dec. 12
Morrison, Shirley, 66, Mechanicsburg, Pa., Feb. 7
Mull, Clarence B., 79, Lebanon Route, Pa., March 11
Myers, Ernest Daniel, 82, Warrenton, Va., Feb. 16
Murrey, Chester, McPherson, Kan., Dec. 29
Ober, Galen, 82, Lorida, Fla., Aug. 21
Overman, Dennis, 56, Morgantown, W.Va., Jan. 3
O'Baugh, Lydia B., 87, Crimora, Va., March 13
Painter, Lucille, 94, Palmyra, Pa., Jan. 31
Pendley, Lorene, 78, Beaverton, Mich., March 24
Perdue, John, 97, Lorida, Fla.
Pfoutz, Leah, 88, Bridgewater, Va., Feb. 10
Pratt, Mary Elizabeth, 83, Fresno, Calif., March 3
Putman, Erma, 88, Somerset, Pa., Feb. 19
Radford, Annabel L., Fayetteville, W.Va., Jan. 15
Reierson, Naomi, Sebring, Fla., Nov. 15
Reinecker, Betty, 72, McPherson, Kan., Feb. 11
Repine, Gertrude, 58, Barnesboro, Pa., March 30
Rinehart, Margaret, 78, Waterford, Calif., Feb. 28
Rogers, Grace, 77, New Paris, Ind., Feb. 14
Rowland, Ferne P., 76, Bridgewater, Va., Feb. 26
Royer, Gladys Hawbaker, 97, N. Manchester, Ind., Aug. 27
Rush, Elwood L., 86, Mauertown, Va., March 12
Rush, William M., 77, Fort Valley, Va., Feb. 12
Sager, Otis D., 83, Lost River, W.Va., March 17
Sample, Duane, 66, Ashland, Ohio, Feb. 25
Sawyer, Grace, 82, Dripping Springs, Tex., March 24
Senseman, John, 75, Tipp City, Ohio, Jan. 18
Settle, Madeline L., 85, Fayetteville, W.Va., Jan. 21
Shaffer, Dorothy, 82, Pomona, Calif., March 19
Shaffer, Rose N., 75, Johnstown, Pa.
Shepherd, Ted, 81, Nokesville,Va., Sept. 30
Shober, Emil E., 77, Frederick, Md., Jan. 25
Shutter, Carl, 62, Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 4
Simmons, Treva, 82, Moyers, W.Va., Feb. 9
Slagle, George W., Limestone, Tenn., Feb. 5
Small, Kermit, 79, Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 13
Smalley, June, 57, New Stanton, Pa., Oct. 12
Smith, Elizabeth, 70, Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 2
Stern, Georgetta, 72, Elizabethtown, Pa., Jan. 26
Strawderman, Austen, 81, Bergton, Va., Feb. 11
Studebaker, Emmert, 94, Tipp City, Ohio, March 8
Stultz, Martha A., 91, Hollidaysburg, Pa., Nov. 13
Swab, Beulah, 92, Glendale, Calif., Feb. 24
Swinger, Mildred Lillian, 85, Essex, Mo., March 18
Thundu, Daniel, 27, Mechanicsburg, Pa., Jan. 14
Ulrich, Robert H., 70, Lebanon, Pa., Feb. 29
VanDyke, John, 93, Lorida, Fla.
Vaughn, Leonard E., 83, Alexandria, Va., Nov. 29
Vettori, Carol, 61, Friedens, Pa., Nov. 24
Vinard, Jim, Rossville, Ind., Feb. 19
Wagner, Murray, Lancaster, Pa., March 21
Walker, Arlie, Toledo, Ohio
Walker, Hilda M., 78, New Oxford, Pa., March 5
Waybright, Ludholtz Allene, 79, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 10
Weaver, Paul, Sebring, Fla., July 2
Wheeler, Howard, 81, Camp Hill, Pa., Feb. 2
Whisler, Mabel, 85, Lebanon, Pa., Jan. 18
Whitesel, Goldie M., 78, Timberville, Va., March 24
Wilkie, Luella G., 82, Somerset, Pa.
Williams, Hazel, 91, Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 10
Williams, Jeffrey L., 28, Harrisonburg, Va., Feb. 13
Wilson, Beth, 22, Acme, Pa., Jan. 29
Wise, Emma., 85, Tucson, Ariz., March 6
Wittler, Albert, Sebring, Fla., May 2
Woof, Rey, Sr., 73, Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 31
Yingling, Ruth R., 68, Union Bridge, Md., March 14
Yoder, Robert, Sebring, Fla., March 16
Young, Nancy, 80, Elizabethtown, Pa., Feb. 1

Licensings

Allen, Donna R., March 12, Bethel, DuBois, Pa.
Baker, Mildred F., March 5, Tyrone, Pa.
Carlson, Melinda, Jan. 29, York, Pa.
Coulter, Nina, Nov. 6, Waka, Tex.
Cornelius, George Edward, Nov. 21, West Chester, Pa.
Keller, Jon, Jan. 2, Oakland, Bradford, Ohio
Kiehner, Kermit, Avon Park, Fla., March 15
Kurozovich, William, March 26, Lower Claar, Claysburg, Pa.
Manthos, Michael C., Jan. 30, Oak Park, Oakland, Md.
Martin, Michael D., Feb. 6, Phoenix, Ariz.
Mauck, William Vancliff, March 26, Sugar Valley, Loganton, Pa.
Murlin, Allen Kurtis, March 19, Sunnyside, New Creek, W.Va.
Rice, James Edward, Feb. 20, Lighthouse, Boones Mill, Va.
Schreyer, Manfred, Feb. 6, West Alexandria, Ohio
Shaulis, M. Eric, Feb. 6, Meyersdale, Pa.
Stewart, Kenneth Allen, March 19, Mechanicsburg, Pa.
Walker, Larry E., East McKeesport, Pa.
Webb, Timothy J., Feb. 6, Locust Grove, New Castle, Ind.
Wheeler, Myrna L., March 19, Pomona Fellowship, Pomona, Calif.
Yoder, Lisa, March 26, New Philadelphia, Ohio
Young, Cynthia, Jan. 16, Brook Park, Ohio
Zepp, Joy Elaine, March 5, Hagerstown, Md.

Ordinations

Barley, Shirley, March 26, Reisterstown, Md.
Beam, Nicholas, March 5, Pleasant Hill, Ohio
Berkey, Corey, Feb. 13, Dry Run, Pa.
Berkley, Richard Wayne, Feb. 6, Danville, Va.
Coulter, Carol, Nov. 6, Waka, Tex.
Elsea, Henry Dearmont, Jr., Feb. 5, Tearcoat, Augusta, W.Va.
Golden, Wilburt, Jan. 29, First, Baltimore, Md.
Hartman, Charles Leroy, March 26, New Fairview, York, Pa.
Johnson, Daniel, March 26, Schuylkill, Pine Grove, Pa.
Kaufman-Frey, Cameron, Feb. 13, Morgantown, W.Va.
Longenecker, Thomas William, March 5, Glendale, Calif.
Miller, David Lloyd, March 19, Lick Creek, Bryan, Ohio
Oren, Kenneth, Jan. 30, Happy Corner, Clayton, Ohio
Osborne, Helen Louise, April 2, Black Rock, Glenville, Pa.
Rhodes, Rebecca Oliver, March 26, Roanoke Central, Roanoke, Va.
Sheppard, Daniel James, March 19, North Fort Myers, Fla.
Sherlock, Douglas D., Jr., April 9, Lewistown, Pa.
Shook, Gregory Paul, March 5, Hagerstown, Md.
Wiser, Tracy Lee, Feb. 6, Harmony, Myersville, Md.
Woodard, Emma Jean, Feb. 6, Oak Grove, Roanoke, Va.

Pastoral placement

Bieber, Fred, from interim to permanent, Hanoverdale Big Swatara, Hummelstown, Pa.
Boleyn, Lester E., from Cedar Creek, Citronelle, Ala., to Congregational Life Team Area 3
Edwards, John F., interim to permanent, West Milton, Ohio
Fisher, Chester, from Buena Vista, Va., to Middle River, New Hope, Va.
Grady, Duane, from Northview, Indianapolis, Ind., to co-pastor, Anderson, Ind.
Hall, Mary Lou, to Lower Claar, Claysburg, Pa., part time
Meyerhofer, Kelly, youth ministries, Pleasant Valley, Weyers Cave, Va.
Miller, Alan, interim to permanent, Conestoga, Leola, Pa.
Schwarze, Robert, from interim to permanent, Rossville, Ind.
Sgro, John, from Sebring, Fla., to associate pastor, Pleasant Dale, Decatur, Ind.
Smith, Robert, from interim to permanent, Peoria, Ill.
Snair, Freeman, to Amaranth, Pa.
Thomas, Jeffrey A., part-time, Robinson, Pa.
Voorhis, Valarie Van, to Upper Fall Creek, Middletown, Ind.
Weaver, Beverly, from Northview, Indianapolis, Ind., to co-pastor, Anderson, Ind.
Weaver, Herbert, from interim to permanent, Jacksonville, Fla.
Yoder, Ruth, from interim to senior pastor, Union Center, Nappanee, Ind.

Editorial

Forgiveness isn't fair

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. —Eph. 4:31-32

My heart aches for the aching hearts of the families of the Lockerbie, Scotland, airline disaster. Many have gone to Europe to watch the trial of those accused of blowing up the plane in which their loved ones died. They are rekindling the anger and resentment that after a decade hasn't died. They are like victims and families of victims everywhere who go to trials and sentencing hearings, even executions, hoping for the closure that never comes. I yearn for them to have the peace that comes from forgiveness.

Large forgiveness always inspires me. Brethren have heard the story of SueZann Bosler, who has forgiven the man who in 1986 murdered her father, Bill Bosler, pastor of Miami (Fla.) First Church of the Brethren. She has also worked tirelessly against the death penalty, and for healing for others through Murder Victims' Families for Reconciliation.

I have read recently of Gregory Gibson, a father in Massachusetts, who has been exchanging letters with the man who went on a rampage and killed his son and others. Their correspondence is a mutual attempt to understand what happened. Steven McDonald of Malverne, N.Y., a former police officer who has lived as a quadriplegic since he was shot 14 years ago, now travels the country telling audiences he has forgiven his assailant "unconditionally." Sam Reese Sheppard, whose mother was murdered and whose father, Dr. Sam Sheppard, was convicted and then acquitted of the murder, prays for those who have wronged him and his family.

Of course I can understand the anger of someone who posted this in an internet chat room: "Forgiveness is a premise of Christianity and many other religions, yet religion has often been used to manipulate us. I have experienced family brawls in which I had to fight for my life at the age of nine. I have been required to kiss the man and woman who had abused me the night before. Then, I was required to attend church and act like none of this ever happened so the benefits of forgiveness could be crammed down my throat. Maybe others can find peace in forgiving, but I am quite happy being angry right now. Anger empowers me."

Victims have the "right" to reject forgiveness, and those who haven't been wronged or hurt have no "right" to push it on them. But sometimes forgiveness is rejected as an option before it is understood. In recent years scholars and healers have devoted considerable effort to explaining what forgiveness is and what it is not.

In a seminar on "Learning to forgive," Robert D. Enright, psychology professor at the University of Wisconsin, explains that interpersonal forgiveness is a moral choice, an act of mercy, that one who has been wronged is free to give or to withhold. It is a gift, not a duty or an obligation. It isn't earned or deserved, nor is it necessarily acknowledged or reciprocated. As such it isn't what's fair, but rather it is an exchange of good for evil. Forgiveness is "the foregoing of resentment or revenge when the wrongdoer's actions deserve it, and giving the gifts of mercy, generosity, and love when the wrongdoer does not deserve them." Nobody deserves to be forgiven.

Just as important is what forgiveness is not. It is not forgetting, or "moral amnesia," says Enright, who heads the International Forgiveness Institute (www.forgivenessinstitute.org). On the contrary, the person who forgives becomes more acutely aware of the wrong. And forgiveness does not forego redress; one can forgive and seek justice at the same time.

Another thing forgiveness is not is this: It is not easy. It is not a sign of weakness, but of strength. It often doesn't happen all at once; forgivers say they have to work at it every day. Jesus testified to the difficulty when, after forgiving the paralytic, he asked the scribes who were critical of him, "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'?" (Matt. 9:5). Spiritual healing is just bigger than physical healing.

The rewards equal the difficulty and the work. Freedom from the pain of resentment and anger is a great reward. Forgiveness offers the possibility of less anxiety and more self-esteem, renewed hope, restored relationships, community harmony. It offers the peace of Christ.

Even after learning the theories of forgiveness, the definitions and the pros and cons, I still don't know if I could bring myself to do it, were I ever wronged or hurt badly. I can practice on small slights. As a Christian I can remember the example of Christ, who forgave us all. Yet there would come a time, after all the intellectual resources are gathered, when I would have to ask God for help. I would call upon the promise of the Song of Zechariah: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1: 78, 79).—FLETCHER FARRAR

A Brethren Education

Joining Academic Excellence with Brethren Values

Varietal bone
Occipital bone

The cornerstones of a Brethren education are found in the values of the church itself: faith, peace, justice and service. Upon this foundation, students develop the qualities essential for intellectual growth, personal integrity, a strong faith, and service to their church and communities. A Brethren education reinforces in students a system of values which they will carry throughout their lives.

Brethren Colleges Abroad
North Manchester, Indiana

Bethany Theological Seminary
Richmond, Indiana

Bridgewater College
Bridgewater, Virginia

Elizabethtown College
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

Juniata College
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

University of La Verne
La Verne, California

Manchester College
North Manchester, Indiana

McPherson College
McPherson, Kansas

Church of the Brethren Collaboration on Admissions
COBCOA

he Brethren Recruiting Project • Church of the Brethren General Board • 1451 Dundee Ave. • Elgin, IL 60120

ENVISION A WORLD WHERE
THE ENVIRONMENT IS PROTECTED,
HUMAN DIGNITY IS UPHELD,
AND THERE IS NO VIOLENCE.

COME ENVISION THAT WORLD WITH US AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Staff and Board of Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust Cordially Invite You to the

SOCIALLY RESPONSIVE INVESTING RECEPTION

Monday, July 17, 2000, 4:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M.

Marriott Hotel Downtown, Basie Ballroom B1

Sample hot appetizers, socialize, and learn more about socially responsive investing.

There will be opportunities to ask questions and to listen to short, informal presentations on socially responsive investing by Geeta Aiyer of Walden Asset Management and Wil Nolen of Brethren Benefit Trust.

Reservations required. To R.S.V.P., call **800-746-1505, ext. 388**, or e-mail ACReception@Brethren.org.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
BENEFIT TRUST
INC.

For more information on the Walden/BBT Social Index Funds, including charges, expenses, and ongoing fees, please call 800-746-1505 ext. 388 to receive a prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully befor investing or sending money. United States Trust Company of Boston is the Investment Adviser for the Funds and has designated its Walden division to fulfill its obligations with respect to the Funds. Brethre Benefit Trust serves as a consultant on issues concerning peace and justice and is compensated by the adviser. BISYS Fund Services is the Funds' Distributor.

05/00

urch
f the
thren

MESSENGER

JULY 2000 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG

EMPOWERING GOD'S PEOPLE IN HONDURAS

AMP CHANGES LIVES • WORKING FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND • LIFE PROGRAM

A Brethren Education

Joining Academic Excellence with Brethren Values

Varietal bone
Occipital bone

The cornerstones of a Brethren education are found in the values of the church itself: faith, peace, justice and service. Upon this foundation, students develop the qualities essential for intellectual growth, personal integrity, a strong faith, and service to their church and communities. A Brethren education reinforces in students a system of values which they will carry throughout their lives.

Brethren Colleges Abroad
North Manchester, Indiana

Bethany Theological Seminary
Richmond, Indiana

Bridgewater College
Bridgewater, Virginia

Elizabethtown College
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania

Juniata College
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

University of La Verne
La Verne, California

Manchester College
North Manchester, Indiana

McPherson College
McPherson, Kansas

Church of the Brethren Collaboration on Admissions
COBCOA

The Brethren Recruiting Project • Church of the Brethren General Board • 1451 Dundee Ave. • Elgin, IL 60

JUNE 2000 VOL.149 NO.5 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG

urch
f the
thren

MESSENGER

r: Fletcher Farrar **Publisher:** Wendy McFadden **News:** Walt Wiltschek **Advertising:** Russ Matteson **Subscriptions:** Peggy Reinacher **Designer:** Paul Stocksdal

ONTHECOVER

David Radcliff

The cover photograph is by David Radcliff, director of Brethren Witness, whose photography often graces the pages of MESSENGER. *We asked him to describe this photo. He writes:*

An uncertain future awaits young girls like Cristina of El Estribo, Honduras. Most often, they face a tomorrow that is clouded by things like little chance for education beyond sixth grade, early marriage to often-abusive or disrespectful spouses, and few opportunities for employment or personal development.

Ironically, enabling and empowering women is a key factor for enhancing the well-being of families, communities, and societies. For instance, there is a direct and inverse relationship between the years of education a young woman receives and the number of children she is likely to bear.

This photo itself does not hint at the possible troubles awaiting Cristina and other young women in poor communities around the world. She, like them, is more than the problems she will face. She is capable, intelligent, playful—and can smile for the camera. God's image persists in the souls of even those at the margins of human society, giving them—and us—hope of a better day.

DEPARMENTS

2 **From the Publisher**
3 **In Touch**
6 **News**
27 **Letters**
31 **Turning Points**
32 **Editorial**

Glenn Mitchell

W. Henry Boller

9 Church camp changes lives

There are 33 Church of the Brethren camps, places that give young people time and space to be especially close to God. In this article, Walt Wiltschek celebrates the important role of camps in the ministry of the church.

12 Special section: Honduras

After Hurricane Mitch left thousands of Hondurans homeless in 1998, the Christian Commission for Development set about to help them rebuild both lives and buildings. Working with this partner agency, the Church of the Brethren has sent both volunteers and dollars to aid the reconstruction. Howard Royer, who traveled to Honduras last year, edited this color section.

22 Working for peace in Hebron

Church of the Brethren member Art Gish has spent extended periods in the Middle East working among Palestinian families in Hebron. He describes the vision of Christian Peacemaker Teams and explains the importance of presence.

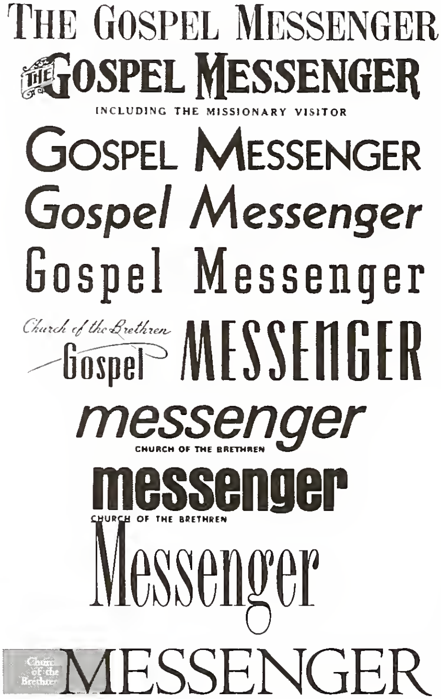
25 Breathing LIFE into churches

It is sad to see church buildings abandoned. Was it a lack of vision that led to their decline? Robin Wentworth Mayer describes the LIFE process, offered by New Life Ministries, which can help churches discover a new vision and fresh vitality.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Sometimes "redesign" doesn't refer to cataclysmic organizational shifts. This month it simply means that MESSENGER has a facelift.

A publication undergoes evolutionary design changes all the time, but every once in a while the moment comes to change a number of things all at once. The timing seemed right for a new look, now that we're in a new millennium and the 150th anniversary of the magazine is just around the corner. So we asked Paul Stocksdale, who just returned to our masthead a couple of issues ago, to develop this new design.



The previous logotype changed exactly 10 years ago, to the month. The one before that was developed in 1971, though it was not radically different from the one generated in a major redesign of the magazine in 1965. Most of the logotypes have lasted a much shorter time than that one—one of them no more than four years. Maybe 10 years is a pretty long time, especially in this era of rapid change.

The first logo pictured here is from 1883, when *The Gospel Messenger* came into being. (MESSENGER traces its lineage back to *The Gospel Visiter*, founded in 1851, which is why our sesquicentennial will take place in 2001.) It's interesting to see that our new logotype—with a serif typeface rendered in all caps—shares some characteristics with the classic look of 1883. That original typeface (used 47 years) has withstood the test of time better than any of the intervening ones.

Bridging the classic and the contemporary, the traditional and the forward-looking, is not a bad place for MESSENGER to be. As we move forward, we trust that the loyal readers who have always read MESSENGER will continue to do so, turning to it like a familiar friend. We also hope that new readers who don't even know what a Brethren pedigree is will find food for thought and nurture for the soul in these 150-year-old pages.

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

MESSENGER
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:
preinacher_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 847-742-5100
Fax: 847-742-6103

Display advertising:
rmatteson_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039
Fax: 847-742-1407

Editorial:
ffarrar_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 217-525-9083
Fax: 217-525-9269

Subscription rates:
$16.50 individual rate
$13.50 church group plan
$13.50 gift subscriptions

If you move, clip address label and send with new address to MESSENGER Subscriptions, at the above address. Allow at least five weeks for address change.

Connect electronically:
For a free subscription to *Newsline*, the Church of the Brethren e-mail news report, write cobnews@aol.com.

To view the official Church of the Brethren website, go to http://www. brethren.org.

MESSENGER is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage matter Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 17, 1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of the Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religion News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Biblical quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New Revised Standard Version. MESSENGER is published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Church of the Brethren General Board. Periodical postage paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing office, July 2000. Copyright 2000, Church of the Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0355.
Postmaster: Send address changes to MESSENGER, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

Printed on recycled paper

Collecting **typewriters** for peace

The proceeds of the 1999 "Run for Peace" held in Elizabethtown, Pa., were hand-delivered to the residents of Mulukuku and Santa Rita, Nicaragua, by Bill Puffenberger last November. The money was used to begin a new community center building in Santa Rosa.

As part of the ongoing relationship with the Mulukuku community, Bill is collecting manual typewriters to be used in adult education classes in buildings without electricity. So far he has collected 28 typewriters, which will be cleaned and reconditioned before being sent to Nicaragua.

For more information contact Bill Puffenberger at 717-367-7021 or Puffenvw@etown.edu.

IN TOUCH

Women's retreat in **Peace Valley**

We gathered March 31-April 1 at an old schoolhouse in Peace Valley, Mo., 24 women from around the Missouri-Arkansas District. We laughed, cried, sang, shared our memories, prayed, played. And we broke bread together. Our ages ranged from the twenties to the eighties.

Clefa Cox and Dorothy Scofield of Messiah Church, Kansas City, Mo., led us in worship on Friday evening.

Marie Petty of the Broadwater Church, Essex, Mo., was inspiring and fun-loving as she led us in music, playing, and quizzes, suggesting biblical skits to act out in pantomime. Helen Fisher led morning watch, sharing with us the pain of watching bi-racial grandchildren suffer because they were bi-racial.

—Margaret Hartsock Keltner

Working to end sanctions on **Iraq**

Stephanie Schaudel will be working with the Church of the Brethren Washington Office this summer on Iraq sanctions issues. She is a May graduate of American University and a member of the Lancaster, Pa., congregation.

Stephanie's focus will be on August 5-7 "End the Economic Sanctions on Iraq" rallies in the nation's capital. Included will be workshops, a cultural event on Saturday evening, an all-day vigil and rally on Sunday, nonviolence training sessions, and the opportunity for nonviolent direct action on Monday, August 7.

Stephanie Schaudel

"Stephanie has a real passion for the situation of the Iraqi people, and we wanted to support her in her work related to ending the sanctions," said David Radcliff, director of Brethren Witness. Schaudel will work closely with Washington Office coordinator Greg Laszakovits, while also collaborating with other groups active on this issue.

Contact Stephanie at the Washington Office for information on the August event or for resources related to ending the sanctions on Iraq.

Reaching out in St. Petersburg

On May 5 the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Church of the Brethren presented a gift to its community in the form of a "May Fest in the Grove." About 40 children and adults from the congregation, clad in bright yellow church T-shirts with the Church of the Brethren logo and "Continuing the work of Jesus" taglines on the back, welcomed more than 100 visitors to the church grounds. The fest included pony rides, face painting, horseshoes, clowns, live banjo music, and free hotdogs.

This was the outreach project that followed the second phase of the church's participation in the LIFE evangelism process. For more on LIFE, a program of New Life Ministries, see article on page 25.—**Phil Lersch**

MILESTONES

Roanoke Central's 75th anniversary

On May 7, Central Church of the Brethren, Roanoke, Va., celebrated its 75th anniversary with worship and special events, including a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new children's playground, and the burial of a time capsule to be opened during the centennial in 2025.

In the early 1920s a committee of the Northwest Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, later named First Church, recommended construction of another church building closer to the center of the city.

The new church building was dedicated May 3, 1925. Dr. M. G. Brumbaugh, former governor of Pennsylvania and then president of Juniata College, preached the sermon.—**Ron Berkheimer**

Mocks celebrate 70th anniversary

On April 6, 1930, Ruth Bowser and Clair Mock stood before George Rogers, a minister in the Dunnings Creek Church of the Brethren, New Paris, Pa., and exchanged their wedding vows.

On April 6, 2000, they celebrated 70 years of marriage. The Mocks' four children made possible ten grandchildren, and nearly double that many great-grandchildren. Family and friends helped the Mocks celebrate their 70th anniversary at an open house at their home on April 9, 2000.

Their service to the church, beyond the local parish, included volunteer service to Camp Blue Diamond and at the New Windsor Service Center. To keep abreast of happenings in the Church of the Brethren, they now listen to MESSENGER on tape.

—**Elaine Sollenberger**

Appreciation for 65 years of music

On April 30, Stonerstown Church of the Brethren in

Shenandoah Journal, Dayton, Va.

Good Friday pilgrimage—Pastor Jim Beckwith of the Montezuma Church of the Brethren, Dayton, Va., took his turn leading several dozen pilgrims on a Good Friday walk through Bridgewater, Va.

The Committee on Interchurch Relations *at the Brook Park (Ohio) Church of the Brethren. Left to right, front row: Joe Loomis, Barbara Cuffie, Belita Mitchell, and Jim Beckwith. Back: Jon Kobel (staff support), Tim McElwee, and Ken Kline Smeltzer.*

Just what is the **CIR?**

No, it's not a child's affirmation that we do indeed exist (See, I are!), but the initials of the Committee on Interchurch Relations (CIR).

Composed of seven members, this committee encourages the Church of the Brethren in its relationships with our brothers and sisters in the wider church.

Its current objectives are to:

- promote and celebrate cross-cultural ecumenical partnerships of local congregations;
- encourage participation in the World Council of Churches "Decade to Overcome Violence";
- work with the American Baptists to train and resource our congregations undergoing cross-cultural transitions;
- communicate and implement initiatives of the National Council of Churches of Christ among the Brethren;
- communicate the work of the CIR within the Church of the Brethren; and
- model hospitality toward other Christians by inviting residents of host cities to participate in Annual Conference events and worship.

At Annual Conference the committee will be hosting the new general secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ, Robert W. Edgar, as its featured speaker at the ecumenical luncheon and an insight session on Tuesday. For further information, check out the CIR website at www.brethren.org in the executive director's section.—**Ken Kline Smeltzer**

Saxton, Pa., celebrated the contribution of more than 65 years of music on organ and piano by Virginia Cunningham Reed. Old friends, family members, and former students joined longtime churchgoers to express "deepest love, appreciation, and gratitude" to Virginia with a time of reflections, and a plaque quoting Psalm 100 ("Make a joyful noise to the Lord...") and Proverbs 31:29 ("Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all").

Celebrating music. *From left to right are Dianne Reed, Virginia Cunningham Reed, and Sarah Q. Malone, pastor, Stonerstown Church of the Brethren.*

Dedicating a **peace pole**

Palm Sunday afternoon saw a peace pole dedication service led by pastor Barbara Ober at the Live Oak (Calif.) Church of the Brethren. The pole was placed in memory of Coy Cason, who had attended the church with his wife, Jo, for some 30 years before he died at the age of 85. The pole is inscribed with "May Peace Prevail on the Earth" in eight languages.

May Peace Prevail On Earth

A peace memorial. *Jo Cason, son-in-law Phil Shepard, and daughter Sandy Shepard stand beside the peace pole placed in memory of Coy Cason.*

Andrew Young shares fond memories of Camp Mack

Among the wood rafters and stone walls and earth floor of venerable Miller Auditorium, hundreds of Brethren and others gathered on May 20 for a celebration of Camp Alexander Mack's first 75 years. The camp, located in Milford, Ind., is one of the largest outdoor ministry facilities in the denomination.

Walt Witschek

Keynote speaker Andrew Young *signs a book for Anni Bender of Milford, Ind.*

Two special features highlighted the event: a keynote address from Andrew Young, president of the National Council of Churches of Christ and former United Nations ambassador, who spent a week at Camp Mack as a young adult; and the unveiling of a new Brethren history mural by artist Margie Petry.

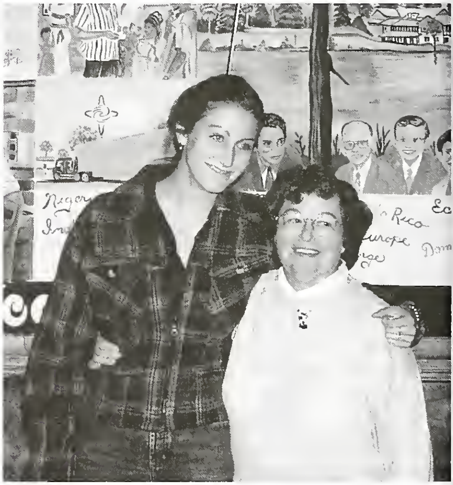
The afternoon began with a hymn sing and reflections on the camp's history, including a recognition of all former camp directors and present director Becky Ball-Miller, then moved into Young's address. Young told his personal history, including that formative week at Camp Mack while volunteering for a nationwide youth program.

"I don't think I can say thank you enough for how much my life was influenced and shaped by that one week here," Young said. "Something happened that moved me in the right direction. That week, while I did not know it at the time, helped to shape my ministry."

Young said it particularly influenced his perspectives on nonviolence, and he later worked with Martin Luther King, Jr. He urged the camp to continue offering such life-changing experiences, saying "miracles will continue to be wrought."

Petry then presided over the unveiling of the mural, which attempts to capture the past 50 years of Brethren history as it joins a series of murals, dedicated in 1949, already displayed in the auditorium. The mural shows more than 40 faces of people, along with logos, buildings, sketches, and other pictures. It was created on a very large canvas in her living room, with finishing touches added right up to minutes before the celebration.

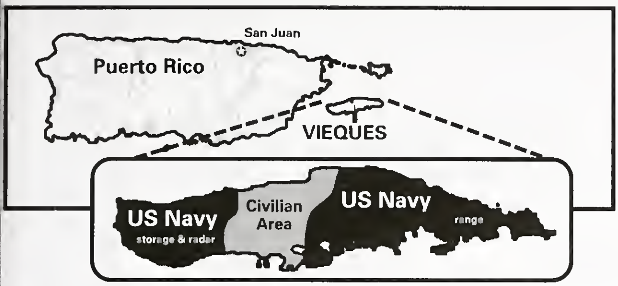
Catching up with 50 years of church history is not an easy thing," Petry said. "I think I got most of it on this. It's busy, but that's what we were."—**Walt Wiltschek**



Artist Margie Petry, ▲ *right, in front of a corner of the Brethren history mural she created, along with her granddaughter, Danelle Wion, who helpe with the lettering.*

Walt Witschek

◄ **A crowd of supporters** *in Miller Auditorium for the celebration event.*



Protests continue in wake of US action on **Vieques**

The situation on the Puerto Rican island of Vieques, where protesters were seeking to bring an end to US Navy activity, came to a head on May 4 with the arrival of US law enforcement forces.

Protesters were removed, departing peacefully, and bombing tests and military maneuvers soon began again. The protest camps had stopped the tests for more than a year following the death of a civilian guard by stray bombs.

Demonstrations continued as bombing resumed, and Cliff Kindy and Ambrosia Brown of the Manchester Church of the Brethren (North Manchester, Ind.), both members of a Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation, were among 56 people arrested for trying to reenter the bombing range.

Religion News Service has reported that church leaders in Puerto Rico vowed to continue fighting for the US military's withdrawal from Vieques, and a demonstration was planned for the Puerto Rican capital of San Juan on May 28. In addition to Christian Peacemaker Teams, other US Brethren and individuals from Church of the Brethren congregations in Puerto Rico have been involved in the protests.

BBT board holds busy spring meetings

The Brethren Benefit Trust board addressed issues from insurance to charitable gifts at its spring meetings in Elgin, Ill. Business items included:

- Shifting all employees, programs, and assets currently under BBT to BBT, Inc., or the Brethren Foundation, Inc., to provide legal protection. BBT will continue to report activities of its incorporated entities to Annual Conference.
- An update on group life insurance, with exploration of a new carrier due to an impending large rate increase from Aetna US Healthcare.
- Approval of a policy stating that those Brethren Pension Plan members who retire before age 59 1/2 and choose to annuitize the employer portion of their account while withdrawing the employee portion, and subsequently paying the income tax due on that account, will have a six-month waiting period before they are eligible to resume contributing into a new pension plan account.
- Giving updates on Flex-Care participation (781 people as of May 1), Clergy Consultation Service, charitable gift annuity registration (which the Brethren Foundation can now receive in 31 states), the Church Workers Assistance Plan, and three-year priorities.
- Approval of a change that allows charitable gift funds under $50,000 to accumulate investment earnings, and approval of a new minimum investment of $10,000 (up from $2,000).
- Approval of allowing up to 100 percent of the taxable portion of a minister's long-term disability income to be eligible for a housing allowance exclusion, beginning in 2000.
- Nominating candidates for three BBT Board of Trustees positions up for election this year, one to be elected by Annual Conference and two by BBT Pension Plan members (one of those to represent churches and districts and one to represent retirement home communities).

Church membership down from 1998

The Church of the Brethren lost more than 1.2 percent of its membership in 1999, according to statistics to be printed in the *2000 Yearbook* from Brethren Press.

Membership in the US and Puerto Rico at the end of 1999 was 138,304, a drop of 1,707 from the previous year. That follows a net loss of 1,389 members (about 1 percent) in 1998.

It marks the largest decrease, in both number and percentage, since 1994, when membership showed a net loss of 2,431 for the previous year. Overall membership is down about 8,400 (5.7 percent) since 1993. Numbers are approximate, and based on information provided by churches that return annual statistical reports.

Numbers of the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), meanwhile, now stand nearly equal to those of its US sister denomination. Estimates put EYN membership at 130,000 to 140,000. The Church of the Brethren also has approximately 600 international members in the Dominican Republic.

BRETHRENSPEAK

As we live into a new century and move ever closer to the 300th birthday of our denomination, it is vital that we celebrate the gifts of all of God's children.

Christy Waltersdorff

Christy Waltersdorff is pastor of the York Center Church of the Brethren, Lombard, Ill.

Quoted from Resources for Calling Ministerial Leadership, *the latest packet of materials in the* In Our Midst *series. This congregational resource, sent free to all churches, is available from Brethren Press.*

Manchester hosts youth conference

Small groups, music, workshops, and inspirational speakers ranked as favorites for more than 170 youth and advisors who gathered at Manchester College (North Manchester, Ind.), for the Midwest's Regional Youth Conference.

Participants said highlights included small-group sessions led by Manchester students, workshops on subjects from dating to athletics to prayer, and campus Peace Week activities that were available to RYC participants during free time, such as ultimate frisbee, tie-dying, and a variety of musical performances.

They also applauded the musical leadership of Joseph Helfrich, Ron Bohannon, and Brett Clark and the creative keynote addresses from Frank Ramirez and Chris Douglas. Ramirez put on a large cardboard box with holes for head and arms to introduce his session, and Douglas used a clip on "kids doing things to make a difference" from the Oprah Winfrey show.

Michael Good, a youth at the Manchester Church of the Brethren, wrote a theme song for the weekend. This year's theme was "Things Not Yet Seen." Next year's RYC at Manchester, in April 2001, will feature performer Ken Medema.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

July 2-8 National Youth Spiritual Growth Camp, "The God-Centered Life," at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministries Center, Sharpsburg, Md.

July 6-10 Western Regional Youth Conference at University of La Verne (Calif.). Theme: "Peace Together a Future with Love."

July 9-15 Great Plains Song & Story Fest at Camp Pine Lake, Eldora, Iowa. Theme: "Celebrating the Fruits of the Land."

July 15-19 Annual Conference, Kansas City, Mo. Theme: "Love As I Have Loved You."

July 19-20 Ministers' Association meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Theme: "Interactive Preaching."

July 28-30 Brethren Revival Fellowship "Brethren Alive 2000" conference at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College (Brethren Bible Institute follows July 31-Aug. 4).

Dramatic breakthrough achieved in Sudanese peace process

Reports from Africa said another "dramatic breakthrough" was achieved in the peace process of war-torn southern Sudan with the East Bank Nilotic People-to-People Peace and Reconciliation Conference, held May 9-15 in the Upper Nile village of Liliir.

More than 250 traditional and civil leaders representing members of the region's Anyuak, Dinka, Jie, Kachipo, Murle, and Nuer ethnic groups came together for the conference, facilitated by the New Sudan Council of Churches. Mark Sloan, working with the New Sudan Council of Churches on behalf of the General Board, was among those attending.

The conference, which follows a similar event on the West Bank of the Nile held last year [see MESSENGER, June 1999], functioned as a forum for people to face each other, discuss their differences, and agree to reconcile and make peace. Practical agreements were made on issues such as access to animal grazing areas and water points, and the return of abducted children and women. Participants also agreed on an amnesty for all prior offenses against people and their property.

The conference concluded with the making of a public covenant between the ethnic groups, when 129 representatives signed a comprehensive document pledging peace and reconciliation. Delegates urged the peace process to continue and include other groups.

New Sudan Council of Chu

Sudanese celebrate *during last year's peace conference. A similar conference in May helped move the peace process forward.*

Connect the Dots

Things are different

The Association of Brethren Caregivers has been an independent organization since January 1, 1998.

ABC became an official denominational agency on July 3, 1998.

Annual Conference charged ABC with responsibility for the health and caring ministries of the Church of the Brethren on July 3, 1998.

Most ABC programs are congregationally based.

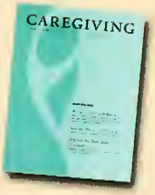
ABC needs financial support from you and your congregation to continue these programs.

ABC ***does not*** receive financial support from any other denominational agency.

ABC connects to you and your congregation by providing:

- **National Older Adult Conference and Caring Ministries Assembly**
- **Deacon Resources**
- **Annual Health Promotion Worship and Study Resources**

Deacon Manual for Caring Ministries
Deacon Manual for Caring Ministries



- ***Caregiving*** — a quarterly publication for caregivers
- **Messenger On Tape** — for people with visual impairments
- **Scholarships and Loans for Studies in the Health Professions**

The only way you and your congregation can financially support the caring ministries of the Church of the Brethren is to send that support directly to ABC.

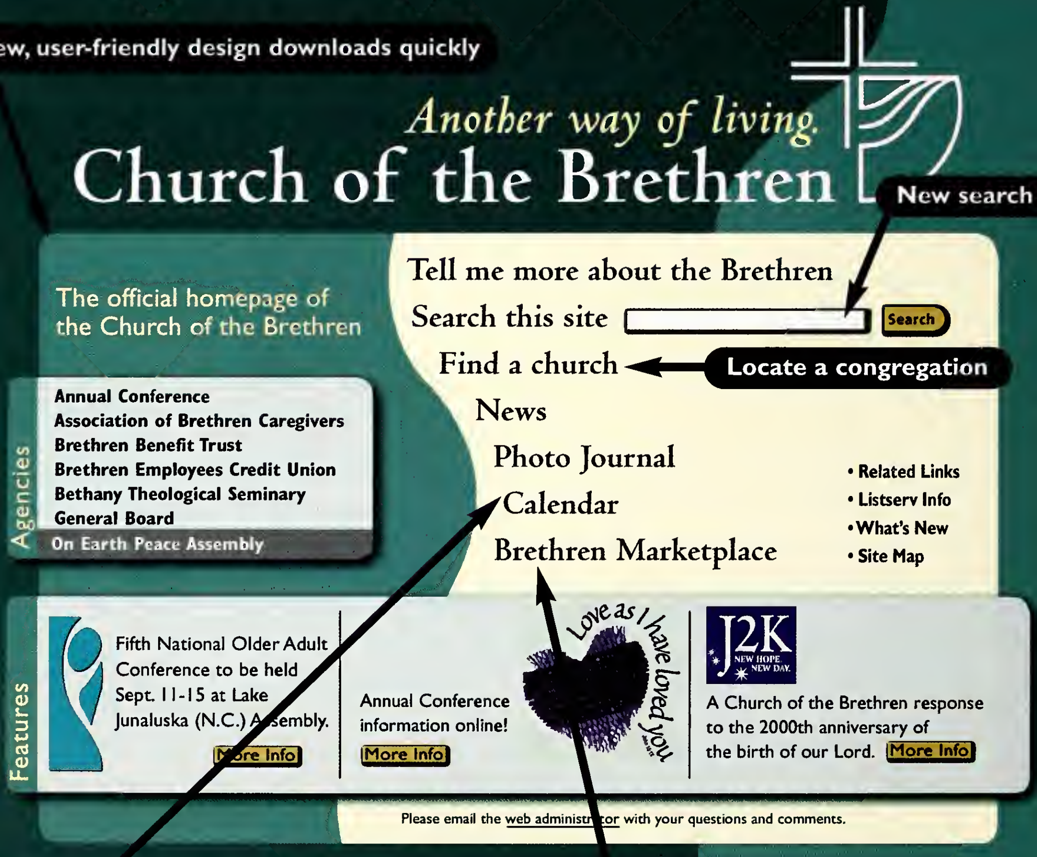
Support the Association of Brethren Caregivers

1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, Ill., 60120; (847) 742-5100, fax (847) 742-5160; www.brethren.org/abc/

ANOTHER WAY OF SURFING

INTRODUCING THE NEW BRETHREN.ORG

New, user-friendly design downloads quickly



Another way of living.

Church of the Brethren

The official homepage of the Church of the Brethren

Tell me more about the Brethren

Search this site

Find a church

News

Photo Journal

Calendar

Brethren Marketplace

- Related Links
- Listserv Info
- What's New
- Site Map

Agencies

- Annual Conference
- Association of Brethren Caregivers
- Brethren Benefit Trust
- Brethren Employees Credit Union
- Bethany Theological Seminary
- General Board
- On Earth Peace Assembly

Features

Fifth National Older Adult Conference to be held Sept. 11-15 at Lake Junaluska (N.C.) Assembly. More Info

Annual Conference information online! More Info

Love as I have loved you

J2K NEW HOPE. NEW DAY.

A Church of the Brethren response to the 2000th anniversary of the birth of our Lord. More Info

Please email the web administrator with your questions and comments.

New search engine

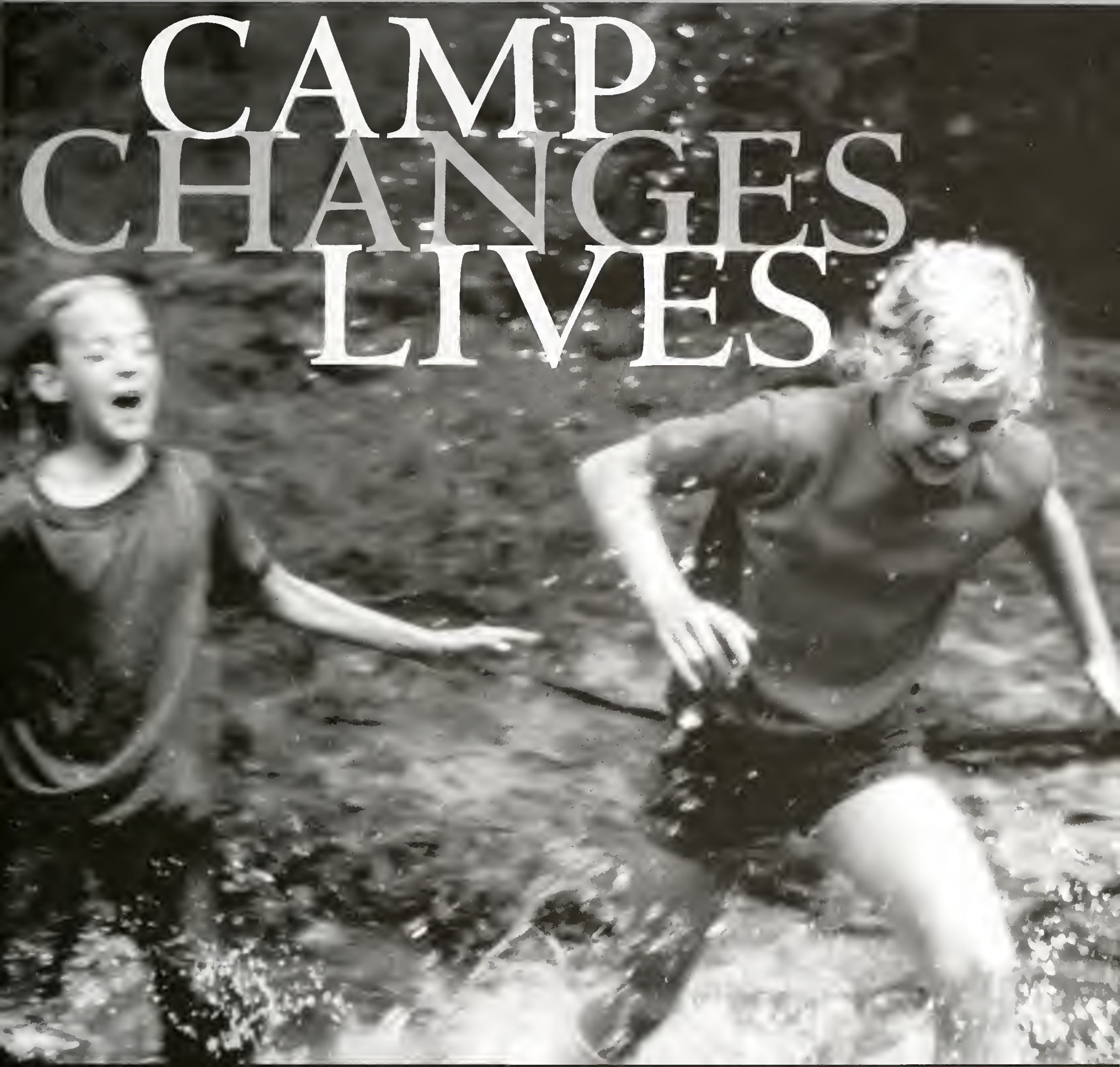
Locate a congregation

Listing of key denominational and district events

Coming soon: a place to order books, subscriptions, or sign up for a workcamp

Visit us at www.brethren.org, or stop by our booth
at Annual Conference and win fun prizes

CAMP CHANGES LIVES



GOD GETS CLOSE TO KIDS AT CAMP

by Walt Wiltschek

A friend of mine called camp her "magic place." When she was growing up, it was a place where she could leave behind distractions and stress and other less pleasant parts of life. It was a place where she felt surrounded by a supportive community. And it was a place where, more than anywhere else, she felt close to God.

Something about spending a week at camp brings a new focus to life, and for many people, those effects seem to linger. The experiences under that forest cathedral urge forward our faith and our sense of call in often surprising ways.

I know that my own call to ministry would likely not have happened had I not been coaxed and prodded into joining the staff at Camp Eder in southern Pennsylvania. I entered the summer anx-

Walt Witschek

While appreciation of nature forms an important part of camp, it is the spiritual environment of Christian community and openness to God's presence that truly makes camp a special place.

ious for the eight weeks to be over and left wishing they could go on forever. I saw the lives of both children and counselors touched and changed. I felt my own passion for ministry awakened and crystallized as God worked through my time there.

As I've gone on to work and volunteer at several camps and in other ministries of the Church of the Brethren, I've heard many similar sentiments expressed. Somehow, some way, God's spirit speaks to people loudly amid the quiet places of camp.

"I think ministry happens in very tangible ways," said Demetra Heckman, in her fifth year as program director at Camp Swatara in Bethel, Pa., and current chair of the denomination's Outdoor Ministries Association. "It's intentional, because we are a Christian camp ... and ministry happens at camps by the community that we create."

Heckman said the opportunity for children and youth from all backgrounds to interact one-on-one and in small groups with Christian adults, both paid staff and the countless volunteers, is particularly valuable. She's seen children open up more and more with stories of violence, illness, losing a parent or a friend, or other inner pains.

"Children are hurting a lot more," she said. "When they come to camp, it's an environment where they can share what's making them hurt and feel supported. The adults are here to listen to the kids and heal their hurts. It's a safe environment where children can feel God moving in that community, often much safer than they'd feel at home."

The Church of the Brethren has long valued camps as a means of reaching out, especially to children and youth. The church camps as we know them today began in the 1920s, starting with Western Pennsylvania's Camp Harmony and Pacific Southwest's Camp La Verne in 1923-24, and exploded through the 1930s, according to the *Brethren Encyclopedia*.

The Church of the Brethren *Yearbook* published by Brethren Press now lists 33 camps and outdoor ministry facilities across the denomination. Some of them are large, year-round retreat centers, and others offer programs for just a few weeks during the summer, but all continue to work at providing a unique ministry in their respective areas.

"Camp has shaped who I am and what I want to be," said Tracy Stoddart, who attended Camp Colorado and now serves as a Brethren Volunteer Service worker in the BVS office. "As an adult, time at camp renews and strengthens my faith each year. I think the value of camp is immeasurable."

Stoddart said she values both the strong friendships and experiences she gained as a camper and the weeks she later worked as a counselor, helping lead her to a degree in elementary education.

Rebekah Houff, a youth from Bethel, Pa., has always had camp as a part of her life, since her father, Marlin, is a camp director. Even so, she said it has remained special. She plans to serve as a junior counselor at Brethren Woods in Keezletown, Va., this summer.

"You learn so much about God, make great friends, and spend a wonderful week in the midst of God's creation," Houff said. "Camp always changes me spiritually."

Molly Ault, a youth from Hanover, Pa., echoed those feelings. "Words cannot explain how much my soul is rejuvenated after just a week there," she said. "My faith level is skyrocketed, my mood is lightened, and all I want to do when I get home is sing praise songs and spread the word of God. I feel closest to the Lord when I'm at camp, and if I could, I'd live there simply because of that. Camp affects my life in so many positive ways that I can't begin to count them all."

Camp has changed many people over the years. General Board executive director Judy Mills Reimer said her time at Camp Bethel in southern Virginia was pivotal to her faith and call to ministry, calling it a "24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week, life laboratory, where I could practice the Christian values and Jesus' teachings with others learning with me." Randy Yoder, now district executive in Middle Pennsylvania, said it was a week as a counselor at Indiana's Camp Alexander Mack where he found his "Yes, Lord, here am I" becoming much clearer.

Robert Blake, who now works with the Association of Brethren Caregivers, grew up in the camps of another denomination but said the community, diversity, challenges, and support he found there led him to later become a minister when he joined the Church of the Brethren. "I remember being affirmed with a strength and to a depth that brought Christ's spirit alive," Blake said. "I learned that one week in the summer could influence the whole rest of my year."

Annual Conference moderator Emily Mumma said Camp Sugar Grove in Ohio was a place where "opportunity was granted and encouragement given to try my wings doing new things, even be a leader. It was a 'safe' place to fail." She said it was also where she really learned to pray.

And former UN ambassador Andrew Young, now president of the National Council of Churches, said during a speech at Camp Mack's 75th anniversary celebration that a week at Camp Mack strongly influenced his life, and such experiences can continue to influence others.

"You've created an environment for the presence of the church in the lives of young people, for the Holy Spirit to be revealed in prayer, singing, camaraderie, and Bible study that goes on here," Young said. "You can never anticipate what's going to come of it."

And therein lies the heart of outdoor ministry. While appreciation for the physical environment of nature forms an important part of camp, it is the spiritual environment of Christian community and openness to God's presence that truly makes camp a special place of transformation in the lives of so many.

Camp Mack staff member Phyllis Leininger recently wrote a book, *The Cornfield That Grows People*, describing the camp's journey from an open field along a lake to a place that makes a difference in hundreds of lives. It's a story that could be recounted in camps across the country, and an ongoing story with bountiful harvests each year.

"A lot of youth do move on to other ministries, a lot of other options," said Heckman, who said her years as a camper at Camp Bethel were a major influence for her. "Camp is really the place where seeds are planted for their life in the church as they grow."

Walt Wiltschek is manager of news services for the Church of the Brethren General Board and spent four summers on staff at Camp Eder in Fairfield, Pa., plus volunteer stints at Camp Mardela and Shepherd's Spring in Maryland.

Walt Witschek

I learned that one week in the summer could influence the whole rest of my year.

Providing Superior Care for Your Peace of Mind

EVERYTHING YOU WANT
IN A SERENE YET CONVENIENT COUNTRY SETTING.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING IN CROSS KEYS VILLAGE
- HARMONY RIDGE APARTMENTS OR COTTAGES

DINING - PLANNED ACTIVITIES - TRANSPORTATION
ON-CAMPUS BANKING & MEDICAL FACILITIES

ASSISTED LIVING CENTER
- SHELTERED NEIGHBORHOOD
- PRIVATE ROOMS WITH BATH
- HEALTH CARE CENTER
- HOUSEKEEPING

EVERYTHING YOU NEED
- SUPPORT SERVICES
- HOME HEALTH SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE (ALZHEIMER'S) UNIT
- CROSS KEYS SUBACUTE CENTER
- ADULT DAY SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE UNIT
- NURSING CARE
- RESPITE CARE

MEDICARE/MEDICAID APPROVED

Christian care since 1908

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

2990 CARLISLE PIKE - P.O. BOX 128
NEW OXFORD, PA 17350-0128
1-888-624-8242
WWW.BRETHRENHOME.ORG

The Brethren Home Community

HONDURAS: EMPOWERING GOD'S PEOPLE

by Howard Royer

Upon the launching of the Christian Commission for Development (*Comisión Cristiana de Desarrollo)* in Honduras in 1982, death threats to staff were frequent. In that volatile era, assisting Salvadoran refugees massed on the country's western border and defending the rights of the poor did not win CCD many laurels.

In fact, Noemí Espinoza, one of the founding staff members, spent time in exile in the US during that tumultuous beginning. Contrast that to 1999, when Espinoza, as executive president of CCD, received her country's National Human Rights Award. CCD, the joint effort of Protestant churches, and Caritas, the Roman Catholic social ministry, were commended jointly for their outreach to the most needy and excluded of Hondurans.

Church of the Brethren connections with CCD go back to its beginnings, when Dan McFadden and Steve Newcomer were in Brethren Volunteer Service working with Salvadoran refugees in Honduras. It was in that era and region, too, that Yvonne Dilling was lifting up the cause of Salvadoran refugees through Witness for Peace. Out of that encounter she co-authored the award-winning book *In Search of Refuge.*

In 1988 David Radcliff set up the first international workcamp with CCD, even before he joined the General Board staff. For most of the past dozen years he has led annual workcamp groups to CCD-related projects in Honduras.

Before Hurricane Mitch struck late in 1998, CCD's outreach centered on 113 rural communities in the poorest areas of the country. In each community its staff trained a representative group of villagers to analyze problems and define solutions.

Since Mitch, the agency's work has expanded to 400 villages and to Tegucigalpa, the capital, where CCD is headquartered. Enabling the expansion was the responsiveness of the international Christian community in sending volunteers and money. The CCD budget over the current two-year period is $15 million.

> "The poor possess a tremendous capability to solve their own problems. Our task is to accompany them."

Beginning with the medical team that was dispatched in November 1998 by the General Board to assist survivors of Hurricane Mitch, Brethren have maintained an active presence in Honduras. In follow-up to hurricanes Georges and Mitch in Central America and the Caribbean, General Board programs have invested over half a million dollars. Some 50 Brethren have joined the work brigades in Honduras since last August. Church of the Brethren women are being recruited by the Brethren Witness office for a Faith Expedition to Honduras this November. And three projects there are seeking the placement of BVSers.

Individual Brethren are also involved. Harold Metzler, a builder from Memorial Church in Martinsburg, Pa., and his sons have designed and built prototype housing in Honduras. Others from Memorial church have worked in health and service ministries there. For over 25 years Chet Thomas, a Church of the Brethren member and former Church World Service director in Honduras, has given leadership to Project Global Village, an enterprise of interest especially to his home district, Western Pennsylvania. In 1994-95 BVSers David and Adela See of the Shenandoah District worked with Project Global Village.

For CCD and its partner churches, the focus goes far beyond such hurricane recovery efforts as rebuilding houses and bridges that were washed away. The larger challenge is long-term development,

continued on page 21

Paul Jeffrey CCD

AFTER MITCH, VISIONS OF HOPE

Paul Jeffrey CCD

After the waters of Hurricane Mitch lashed the countryside for a week in the fall of 1998, Hondurans faced an overwhelming task. Especially the poor and the marginalized. Their challenge went beyond the recovery of homes, land, and income, to the shaping of a more hopeful future.

In the nearly two years since, 400 ravaged communities have been transformed through the efforts of the Christian Commission for Development (CCD). The Church of the Brethren is among CCD's long-time partners helping Honduras' poor glimpse what God's justice and love means for them.

Hondurans know well how water can both ravish and replenish

CARIBBEAN SEA
GUATEMALA
HONDURAS
TEGUCIGALPA
EL SALVADOR
NICARAGUA

For CCD the focus is on working with, not for, the poor

by Howard Royer

BUILDING HOMES AND RELATIONSHIPS

In the language of friendship, no translation is required. Below, Sarah Shank with Honduran friends in 1990 workcamp.

David Radcliff

Within days of Mitch's fury, the trust established between the Church of the Brethren and CCD enabled Yvonne Dilling to coordinate the first group of Brethren volunteers—11 Spanish-speaking medical workers—to enter disaster communities in southern Honduras, supported by the Emergency Disaster Fund.

Since October 1998 Brethren have contributed over half a million dollars for hurricane relief in Central America and the Caribbean. Over the past year, more than 50 Brethren volunteers have helped build houses in southern Honduran villages, working under auspices of the General Board, CCD, and Church World Service.

"Even in the face of urgent needs caused by Mitch, CCD keeps the focus on building relationships over building houses," noted Merv Keeney, director of Global Mission Partnerships for the General Board. "Rather than working *for* people in need, participants return with a strong sense of having worked *with* the people, a style that inspires hope and renewal within both Hondurans and visiting workers."

Paul Jeffrey CCD

delina Hernandez, front, works on her own home with help of neighbor. Organized by CCD and local pastors, their women's group erected 22 houses in Tegucigalpa.

Paul Jeffrey CCD

liana Juarez, front center, cuts ribbon at doorway of her new me she and other women built in Tegucigalpa, aided by CCD.

David Radcliff

For 10 years, Church of the Brethren workcampers have assisted with CCD projects in Honduras. Since last August, 50 Brethren volunteers have helped build houses, mostly along the southern coast.

Paul Jeff

CCD helps farmers adopt sustainable a

Brethren grants boost livestock development in villages

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Rapid deforestation aggravated the Mitch disaster. The steep slopes and river valleys no longer have the ability to absorb vast amounts of water. Villages like El Estribo along the Choluteca River were swept away—people, houses, livestock, tillable land.

Last year in a pilot project with CCD, the General Board's Global Food Crisis Fund provided $5,000 for the women's group in El Estribo to purchase pigs and chickens. Providing food and income, the livestock project was a marked success. This year the Brethren hunger program has allocated $42,000 to help 800 other women in dozens of southern Honduran villages acquire small livestock.

Small-scale development in poor, rural communities is addressed by CCD in a host of practical ways. With each, CCD's approach to change is for the poor to become subjects of their own history, rather than objects of someone else's planning.

aul Jeffrey CCD

David Radcliff

Women and children of El Estribo, a sou

ctices, soil conservation, improved seed stock, and better storage and marketing.

Paul Jeffrey CCD

Mudslides greatly reduced the amount of Honduras' tillable land.

Howard Royer

Juana Ramón Munquilla beside her new chicken house in El Estribo.

unity where small livestock donated by Brethren has helped reinvigorate village life.

Paul Jeffrey CCD

Reforestation project in Ocotepeque enlists intergenerational support.

Paul Jef

Circles of women marshal support for one another

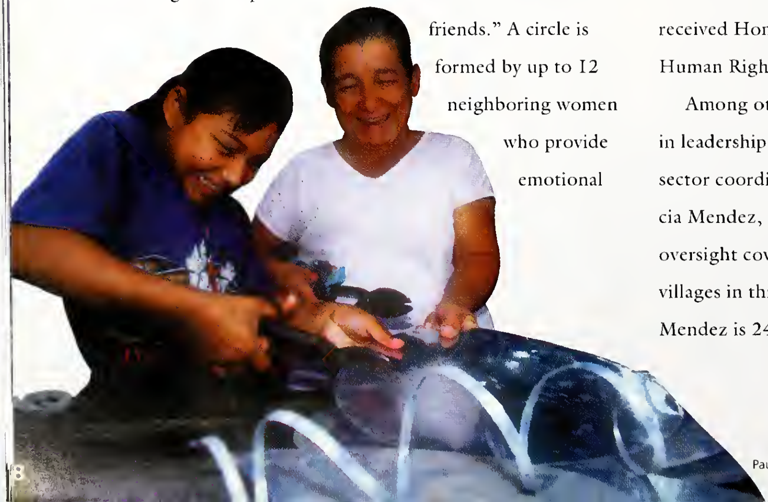
NURTURING CIRCLES OF SOLIDARITY

In mobilizing the marginalized, CCD is particularly focused on the powerlessness and victimization of women. It places a premium on projects that augment household incomes. It assists women in building their own homes. In its village development programs, CCD requires that women make up half of all committees. And it quietly but determinedly tackles issues of abuse and domestic violence.

A new venture is an organizational model called *círculos de amigas*—"circles of women friends." A circle is formed by up to 12 neighboring women who provide emotional and social support for one another. More than 200 circles now operate, El Estribo being a prime example.

CCD itself is a model of women in leadership. The executive president is Noemí Espinoza, a founding member who last year on behalf of CCD received Honduras' Human Rights Award.

Among other women in leadership is Valle sector coordinator Patricia Mendez, whose oversight covers 78 villages in three states. Mendez is 24 years old.


Paul Jeffrey CCD

D's revolving loan fund helps villagers form cooperatives and market products.

Paul Jeffrey CCD

Noemí Espinoza receives Honduras' Human Rights Award from Leo Valladares.

Howard Royer

Valle sector coordinator Patricia Mendez (left) with Paula Suazo in El Estribo.

David Radcliff

Brethren and Honduran volunteers at El Estribo project in August 1999.

Paul Jeffrey CCD

At Nacaome and throughout Honduras, the Christian community lifts up the abundant life in Christ promised to all of God's children.

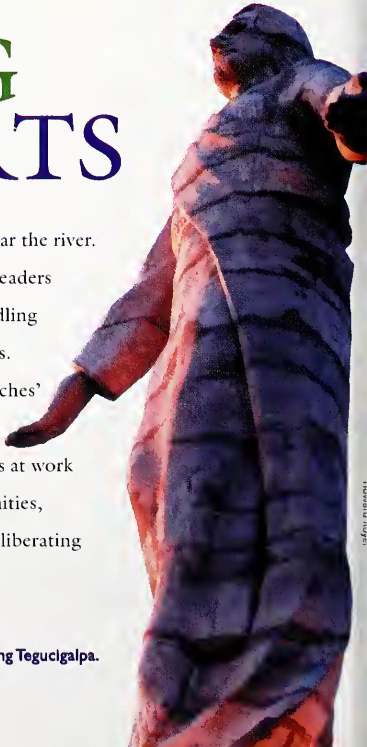
LIBERATING HANDS & HEARTS

The goal of CCD and partners: empowering God's people

A key effort of CCD is training church leaders in pastoral care and congregational development. Theological training runs the gamut from grassroots programs for the newly literate to advanced degrees for pastors and teachers.

On the heels of Mitch, church leaders sensed the urgency of helping survivors deal with insecurity and low self-esteem. Many children, for example, were afraid to go near the river. Some 230 pastoral leaders were trained in handling post-traumatic stress.

Through the churches' presence in Honduras, God's spirit is at work mobilizing communities, opening doors, and liberating hands and hearts.



Christ statue overlooking Tegucigalpa.

continued from page 12

Noemí Espinoza emphasizes, helping communities change the way that power is directed and exercised.

"The poor possess a tremendous capability to solve their own problems," insists Espinoza. "Our task is to accompany them. If they're not the ones to rebuild their communities, to participate in making decisions about their lives, then we have no future as a country."

Espinoza is deeply grateful to the churches and relief agencies around the world that support CCD's ministry and who, in her words, "recognize Christ in each woman and man who struggles to defend their rights and the rights of others."

Merv Keeney, director of Global Mission Partnerships, affirms CCD's theme, "Empowering God's People," as one that resonates with the commitment of the Church of the Brethren. "We rejoice in the opportunities God has laid before us for ministry in one of Latin America's poor yet promising countries," Keeney states.

Two occasions are at hand for Brethren to strengthen their understanding of the churches' work in Honduras. In mid-July, Noemí Espinoza will be a guest and a presenter at Annual Conference in Kansas City. On Oct. 8, ministry in Honduras is the subject of this year's churchwide World Mission Offering.

This article is one of a series on General Board ministries. The writer was in Honduras earlier this year.

NIGHT SOUNDS

by Bill Hare

It's pitch dark, but footsteps are heard as someone makes his way home, unaided by artificial light after a long day of work in the scorching sun in the melon fields. Plodding home for tortillas and beans and rest from the long day.

A rooster crows just 25 feet from my bed—is it time to get up? No, it's 8:48 p.m. and soon the macho call is heard all over town as each calls his claim to his territorial roosting tree.

It's quiet again, but not for long, as a dog across town detects an intruder. Every pooch within earshot answers the challenge of my domain!

Several in our room have already succumbed to sleep and have turned out the night time village sounds to add their own labored breathing, restricted inhaling, as they rest from the hot, dusty, uphill labor of the day.

It's squeak, squeak, squeak, as the bats that have spent the day in the roof become restless and hungry and venture out to feast on those pesky, buzzing mosquitoes that bothered me a little while ago.

Quiet again, but no, that bat just fluttered against my mosquito net.

Somebody just walked by outside and there go the roosters again. First one, then another, and soon the din has spread again all over town.

Quiet again, but not really, as the constant sounds reverberate unchanging from the nearby river. Insect or amphibian or both, I don't know, but the haunting night sound goes on unchanging.

Bill Hare

Dogfight! Claim of territory! All over again, the dogs break the calm.

A nearby baby cries—maybe hungry, maybe sick. It makes its announcement in the universal language of crying.

There's that bat again, still squeaking.

That rooster with the slight upward lilt at the end of his call just woke up and soon again each neighbor tries to outdo the other.

Quiet again. Finally some sleep, but not for long, as one of our guys shuffles past, dodging sleeping mats and suitcases, ducking under ropes holding mosquito nets, and carefully opening the squeaking door for his nightly walk down the path.

And so it goes, through the long, hot night, catching sleep when possible.

Before dawn, before first light, the nearby pump squeaks and water flows from one of the four wells in the community as Maria begins the never-ending task of carrying water for her family—uphill.

Old Juan plods by with the tap, tap, tap of his tattered flip-flops gently caressing his leathery feet. His frayed straw hat, not needed now, will protect him from the scorching sun later as he cuts firewood from the distant forest to load onto the burro he leads.

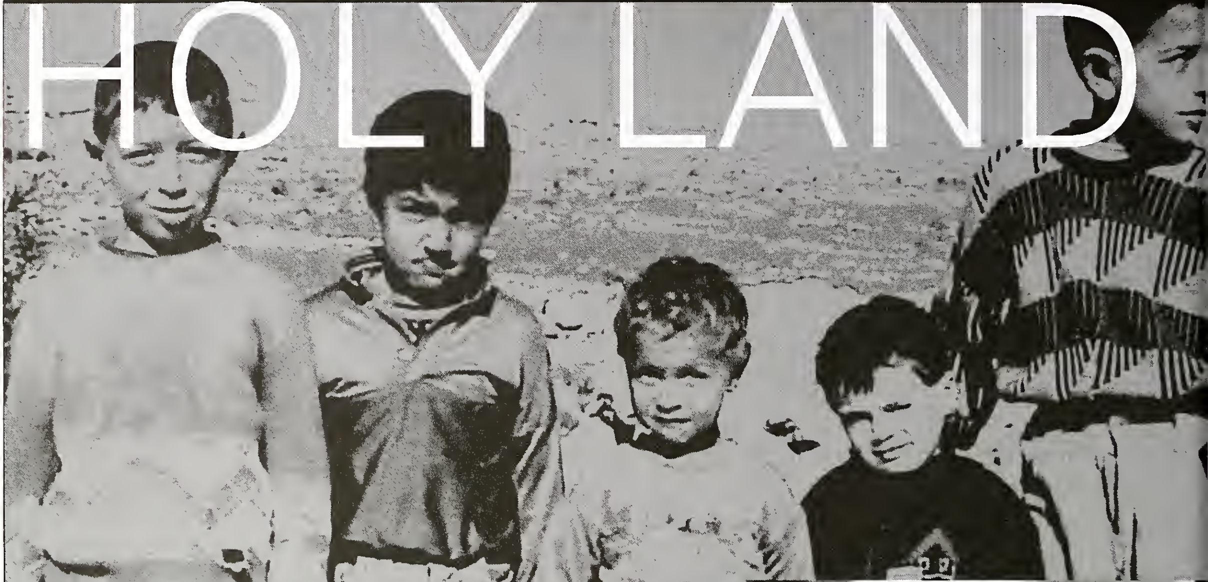
A cow moos, pigs grunt, a horse neighs—it's like living in the barnyard.

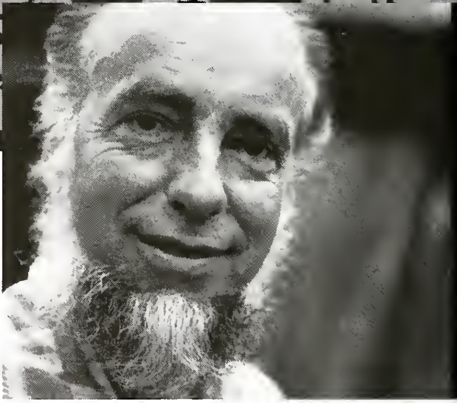
But that's life here in Santa Catarina. A hard, hot life at the end of the road. It goes no farther. But there is hope here, hope for a better life, a better tomorrow.

Based on a week in Santa Catarina, Honduras, in February 2000, a village on the Nicaraguan border. Eight Brethren were part of a Church World Service/CROP group of volunteers constructing houses. Hare is manager of Camp Emmaus, Mount Morris, Ill., and member of the Polo (Ill.) Church of the Brethren.

WORKING FOR PEACE IN THE

HOLY LAND





CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKER TEAMS WITNESS IN HEBRON

by Art Gish

In 1984 Ron Sider addressed the World Mennonite Conference and challenged Mennonites to get serious about working for peace. He suggested that Christians start going into situations of conflict to be a nonviolent witness in the midst of those conflicts, taking the same risks for peace that soldiers take in war.

Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) was started in 1986 as a response to that challenge. Although ecumenical, the largest numbers of people involved in CPT are Mennonites and Church of the Brethren people.

CPT has been in Haiti, the Middle East, Bosnia, and Chechnya, and has worked to diffuse tensions around Native American communities. At present there are full-time teams in Chiapas, Mexico; Hebron, Palestine; and New Brunswick, Canada. I have been privileged to be part of the team in Hebron four different times in the past five years, the most recent this past winter.

Hebron is mentioned 70 times in the Bible. It is where Abraham and Sarah are buried, and was the capital of David's kingdom for seven years. Today it is probably the most tense city in Palestine, a city often mentioned in the news.

Working with CPT in Hebron has been one way I have found to live out Jesus' call for us to be peacemakers, and to make a Christian witness in a largely Muslim city. Almost every day in Hebron Muslims would ask me if I were Muslim. Often when I told them I am a Christian, a deep conversation ensued.

CPT is in Hebron, first, to listen and to learn. I have spent much time talking to the different factions of both sides of the conflict. I now count both Israelis and Palestinians as my friends.

We are also in Hebron to act as international observers. We say we have the grandmother effect. There are things we will not do if our grandmothers are watching us. When people know they are being observed, they tend to act more responsibly. Just having international observers in places of conflict is important.

CPT not only listens and observes, we also get involved in the conflict. We engage in nonviolent direct action. When the No. 18 bus in Jerusalem was bombed two Sundays in a row a few years ago, our team announced the we would ride the No. 18 bus the next Sunday.

When there have been clashes between Israelis and Palestinians, we have often stood in the middle. One time our team prevented Israeli soldiers from firing their guns into a crowd of demonstrators, by standing in front of the guns. We have sat on the roofs of Palestinian homes that were about to be demolished.

Most important, our actions are rooted in prayer. Daily worship and times of fasting are essential to the work of our teams as we work to discern how to engage the powers of evil.

Recently the focus of the team in Hebron has been home demolitions and land confiscation. Part of this work has been starting the Campaign for Secure Dwellings (CSD), in which Palestinian families who face home demolitions are paired with congregations in North America. These congregations pray for their partner family, keep in contact with them, and act as advocates for them.

Here are two stories that illustrate some of our work in Hebron.

Love overcomes fear

For two weeks this past December, I lived with the Omar and Lamia Sultan family. The Sultans are a Palestinian Muslim family whose home in the Beqa'a valley east of Hebron was threatened by Israeli settlers coming at night and terrorizing the family. The settlers believe that all the land in Palestine was given to them by God, and thus feel justified in taking Palestinian land for their own purposes.

Our team wrestled with how we could turn this ugly situation into something beautiful. How could the power of love break into this place of fear and hate?

On the evening of Saturday, Dec. 25, there was a large settler demonstration at the Sultan home, ending with about 100 settlers coming up the hillside to and above the house with their flaming torches, destroying property and frightening the family.

The settlers announced on that evening that they would return on the following Tuesday to demolish the home, confiscate the property, and start construction of a new settlement there. This followed five days of round-the-clock vigiling in front of the home by the settlers.

Our team went on red alert. We sent out an urgent action call for people of good will around the world to contact their governments and the Israeli government to stop this impending tragedy. We asked for help from the Israeli peace movement.

We later learned that College Mennonite Church in Goshen, Ind., sent approximately 75 faxes to the Israeli government on behalf of the Sultan family. College Mennonite Church is paired with the Sultan family.

By Monday evening, Israeli peace activists began to arrive at the Sultan home to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian family. What a wonderful time we had sitting around the fire—Muslims, Jews, and Christians sharing together in Hebrew, Arabic, and English. I could tell the Sultans were grateful for the Jewish presence. I was excited. The ugly actions of the settlers brought people together.

From the gospel we learn that there is an arrogance to the power of evil. That arrogance leads to evil overstepping its own power. The powers of evil crucified Jesus, but in their arrogance brought about their own defeat.

After a lot of personal sharing, we talked about how to respond if the bulldozers came the next day to demolish the house. A number of us were prepared to sit in front of the bulldozers.

On Tuesday, about 50 Israelis from Gush Shalom, Rabbis for Human Rights, and other Israeli peace groups arrived. There were other internationals and lots of press there. Soldiers declared the area a closed military zone and ordered everyone to leave. No one left the area, however, and it ended up that the Israeli police allowed everyone to stay. Only two settlers showed up.

The next day, Wednesday, a large group of settlers came to occupy the land, but were removed by the Israeli authorities. I also was removed by the police from the area for a few hours during this time of removing the settlers. I returned to the Sultan home when all the settlers had left.

On Thursday, local Palestinians organized a march to the Sultan home. This included a member and a former member of the Israeli parliament, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Assembly, and a high-ranking Muslim official from Jerusalem. The march also included local Palestinian dignitaries and Israeli peace activists.

Although at first stopped by Israeli soldiers, the marchers eventually came to the house and greeted the Sultan family. With the dignitaries present, a high-ranking Israeli military official promised the Sultan family that their home was safe and would not be demolished.

After that there was no more settler activity at

A new Israeli settlement *is being built on this hill where the rock wall was constructed. On the hill used to be the orchard of a Palestinian family in the Beqa'a Valley east of Hebron.*

Our team wrestled with how we could turn this ugly situation into something beautiful. How could the power of love break into this place of fear and hate?

Six grandchildren of Omar and Lamia Sultan. *They are looking toward Hebron across the Beqa'a Valley.*

> It was thrilling to have Jews, Muslims, and Christians sharing together around the fire in front of the Sultan home. We experienced again that peace is possible in this torn land.

the Sultan home, and I then moved back into Hebron to be part of the team there. I continued to visit the Sultan family regularly. They adopted me as part of their family.

What did our peacemaker team do there? Actually, not very much. We were present with the family, we made ourselves vulnerable to the evil there, we alerted the world to what was happening, we asked for help and support, we prayed. Something happened that was much bigger than anything we did.

It is exciting to think of the results of this action. The Sultan family received international attention and, because of their being visible, they are much safer now. We got a promise from the Israeli government that the home would not be demolished. It is now less likely that any settlement will be built there.

Israelis and Palestinians came together. It was thrilling to have Jews, Muslims, and Christians sharing together around the fire in front of the Sultan home. We experienced again that peace is possible in this torn land. The ugly situation did turn into something beautiful. Love overcame fear and hate. Here is one small example of what can happen everywhere, if we would open ourselves to God's grace.

A snowstorm brings us together

The Middle East was hit by a major snowstorm on Jan. 27 and 28 this year; Israel/Palestine received the biggest snowfall in many years. In Hebron, where they have a bit of snow every few years, we were gifted this time with about 20 inches of snow. Imagine, snow on palm trees. I was delighted.

On Thursday, Jan. 27, our peace team was in Jerusalem for two important meetings with Israeli and Palestinian activists. We knew a major storm was coming, but the meetings seemed important. When we left Jerusalem at 4 p.m., it was snowing hard. We also had to get through a massive traffic jam.

As we were driving south out of Jerusalem, the road was becoming more and more covered with snow, and at one point, near Bethlehem, we had to get out and push our taxi. Soon our driver said he didn't think he could get to Hebron, and that he was going back to Jerusalem. We decided to get out and start walking toward Hebron, hoping for a ride in the night.

HOW TO REACH CPT

Readers may request more information and a copy of the Christian Peacemaker Teams newsletter by writing CPT, P.O. Box 6508, Chicago, IL 60680. Tel. 312-455-1199. E-mail cpt@igc.org

We started hitchhiking. A pickup truck used to transport workers picked us up. We sat in the back with two young Palestinians. It was snowing really hard. Some vehicles were stranded by the side of the road. After a few miles, the traffic was barely moving.

Before long traffic was not moving at all, but we were having fun. Our common plight had brought us all together. Palestinians, soldiers, settlers, and North American activists were all stranded, brought together by a snowstorm. Our differences no longer seemed important. Something bigger than us, and out of our control, had brought us together. We fight over things we want to control, but here was something none of us could control.

People who otherwise might be enemies now were acting as friends. Settlers, soldiers, and Palestinians were helping push each other's cars, each identifying with the others, all because of an act of nature. At this "checkpoint" we were all equal.

After sitting there for about two hours, I suggested that we start walking the 10 miles home to Hebron. As we started walking up the long, steep hill, we understood why traffic was not moving. For over a mile, cars and trucks were jammed together on the slick road. No one could move. Some places it was even difficult for us to squeeze between the cars and trucks.

At the top of the hill the road was free, and we soon got a ride into Hebron.

Friday was a quiet day in Hebron, except for the many snowball fights in which I eagerly participated. I must admit I started quite a few of the fights. What a wonderful way to break rigid attitudes and patterned responses, and connect with people in a new way. I started one battle with about a dozen young Palestinians, all of them against me. Excitement and commonality filled the air.

The Israeli soldiers were expecially friendly and some of them even participated in the snowball fights. A few of our team members were walking up the street and pretended to throw snowballs at some soldiers. They said, no, no. Then some other soldiers came by who were more receptive to the idea. Our group threw some snowballs near the soldiers, who then threw snowballs back. There were no arrests. We did a lot of joking and laughing together with soldiers.

The snow brought us together, but unfortunately the snow melts quickly there. The oppression of the occupation continues. The problems there are too deep to be covered over by snow. We were, however, given another glimpse of what can be.

Art Gish is a member of New Covenant Fellowship, an intentional Christian community near Athens, Ohio. He is a member of the Church of the Brethren, a graduate of Bethany Theological Seminary, an organic farmer, and a peace activist.

The Love Feast

Compiled by FRANK RAMIREZ

The love feast is based on a simple premise: disciples do as Jesus commands. We examine our lives, wash feet, eat a simple meal, and take communion. Through stories, memories, scriptures, and photographs, the love feast is remembered and renewed, extending the invitation to all to come to the Lord's table.

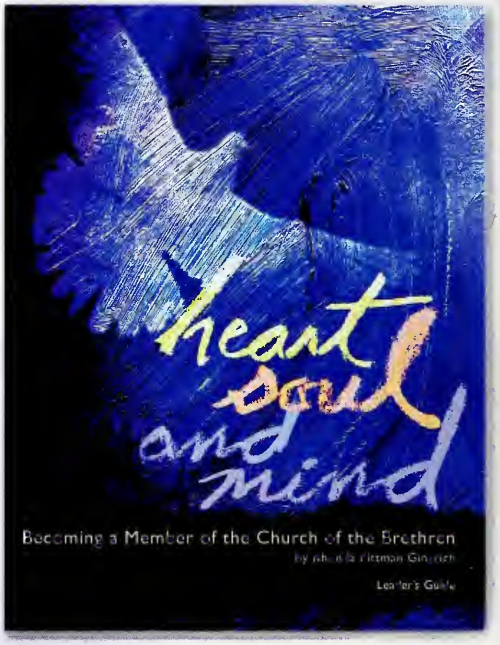
Here is a glimpse into the corporate memory of this central ritual of our faith. A perfect gift for new members, deacons, church leaders, and all who find their Christian home with the Brethren.

$19.95 paperback #8208
$49.95 limited edition hardcover #8240

Brethren Press
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, Illinois 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712
fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

"Teacher, which commandment is the greatest?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment."

Matthew 22:36-38



Giving God your heart, soul, and mind is central to the decision to be baptized as a Christian and become a member of the Church of the Brethren. *Heart, Soul, and Mind* is an adaptable membership curriculum for congregations to use with youth and adults who are exploring a deeper commitment to Christian discipleship.

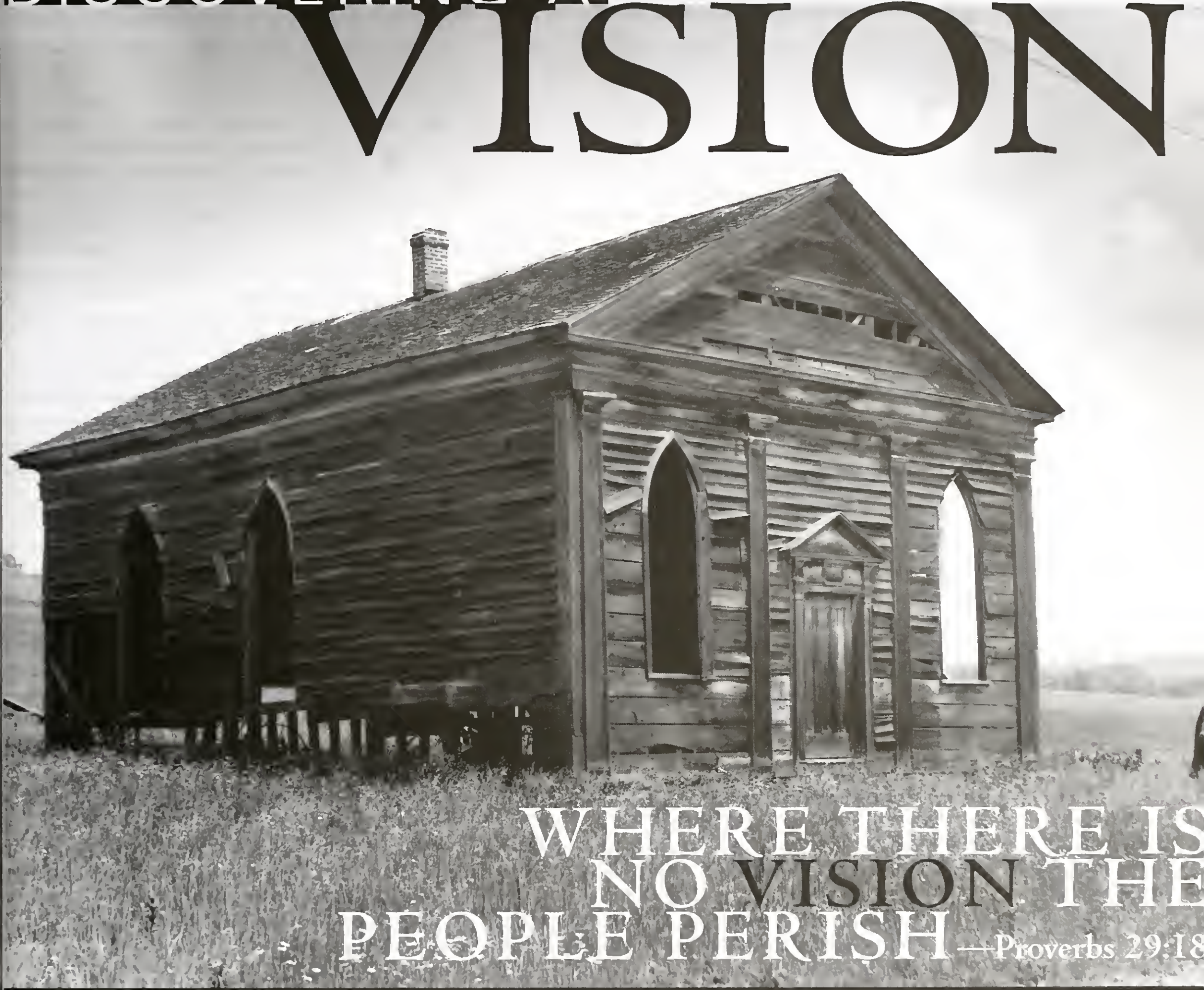
Four units of study explore what Brethren should know about the Bible, church history, living the faith, and church membership. The Leader's Guide (#9922, $24.95) includes reproducible handouts for students, ideas for a mentor program, and an apprenticeship program. The Membership Handbook for students (#9923, $9.95) contains readings, exercises, and journal starters, and is valuable as a keepsake and benchmark of faith development. A video (#9924, $19.95) featuring Brethren youth talking about faith is also available to supplement the curriculum.

Candidates for membership will be engaged —heart, soul, and mind—to love God, love their neighbor, and join in the community of faith.

Brethren Press
This day.

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188 e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

DISCOVERING A VISION



WHERE THERE IS NO VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH —Proverbs 29:18

If your church is declining, give it LIFE

by Robin Wentworth Mayer

Whenever I walk to Suffern,
along the Erie track
I go by a vacant church house,
with its shingles all broken and black.
I suppose I've passed it a hundred times,
but I always stop for a minute
And look at the church, the tragic church,
the church with nobody in it.

Maybe I'm overly sensitve to such things, but it seems that no matter where I go, no matter what route I take to get there, I invariably drive past a building that at one time housed a vital church. Sometimes it's out in the middle of nowhere, just looking forlorn and lonely—where the only signs of life are the birds and the squirrels in the adjoining cemetery. Other times there's one on an abandoned corner in a "declining" neighborhood with boarded windows and "For Sale" signs on the neglected lawn. Often you'll see one that has been converted into an antique store or museum—a resting place for obsolete artifacts and outdated relics—which in itself is a chilling commentary.

And every time I pass one of these empty buildings, I wish the walls could talk. "What happened?" I would ask. "Tell me how you came to this! Did your pastor abandon sound doctrine for worldly fables? Did a root of bitterness spring up and defile many? Did temperate living give way to moral turpitude? Did you give the

Whether your church is dealing with a struggling budget, flagging morale, relational tension, or disputes over doctrine, discovering a vision is the first step toward overcoming those barriers.

devil a foothold? Did you exchange the truth of God for a lie?

This church on the road to Suffern
needs a dozen panes of glass,
And somebody ought to weed the walk
and take a scythe to the grass.
It needs new paint and shingles,
the vines should be trimmed and tied;
But what it needs most of all
are people praying inside.

I know that sometimes the demographics of an area change enough so that the viable need for a church diminishes. I know too that sometimes a congregation relocates for positive, growth-related reasons, and that due to factors such as location, access, building codes, and remodeling costs, there's simply no buyer for the vacated building. In other words, I acknowledge that there are a number of legitimate reasons for a church to close its doors and not every empty meetinghouse is a testimony to failure.

But there are also far too many times that a church suffers a long, slow, painful decline and gradually fades away until all that's left is a building. There was no vision, and so the people perished.

The first study module of the LIFE (Living in Faithful Evangelism) process is "Discovering a Vision." In his excellent book, *Following in the Footsteps of Paul,* author Ed Bontrager examines the First-Century churches that flourished in what is now modern-day Turkey. Through short video sketches, reader-friendly text, and engaging discussion questions, the LIFE curriculum draws parallels between the challenges of our Twenty-first-Century congregations with those encountered by these pioneer churches. Whether your church is dealing with a struggling budget, flagging morale, relational tension, or disputes over doctrine, *discovering a vision* is the first step toward overcoming those barriers. *Following in the Footsteps of Paul* gives biblical, implementable guidance on how to do just that.

In the 18 months since we began the LIFE process at the Kokomo (Ind.) church, we have welcomed several new persons into our fellowship—individuals who previously had no church affiliation, and who were sought out and invited by other church members. We've experienced a significantly heightened sensitivity toward being inclusive to newcomers. And, as is always the case, our new members have contributed much input and enthusiasm toward creative strategies for outreach that are helping us combine the twin callings of service and evangelism.

The LIFE process is a two-year commitment that helps build disciples for an eternal kingdom. It is an investment of about $2,500 that helps focus our treasures on heavenly values that thieves cannot touch and moths cannot destroy. It is not a bad return by any standards.

Churches that might vote it down by saying "We can't afford to do it" should take a critical look at their membership growth over the past 15 years, and project that trajectory into the next 15 years. Churches learn that if their budget is struggling, their money problem is merely a *symptom* of their *vision* problem. In which case, the better question is: "Can we afford *not* to do it?"

T**oday, if you're interested in visiting** the once thriving churches of Asia Minor, you have to hire either a Muslim tour guide or an archaeologist. Neither heritage nor memory sustained them. They lost their vision, and they perished.

You can invest time, money, and energy into discovering and developing a vision for the future. Or, you can manage your budget constraints by pinching pennies and cutting corners. Then you can look forward, in a few years, to eliminating money problems altogether when you disband as a congregation and sell the church property.

So whenever I go to Suffern along the Erie Track,
I never go by that empty church
without stopping and looking back;
Though it hurts me to look at the crumbling
roof and the shutters fallen apart,
For I can't help thinking that poor old church
is a church with a broken heart.

—adapted from "The House with Nobody in It,"
by Joyce Kilmer

Robin Wentworth Mayer is pastor of the Kokomo (Ind.) Church of the Brethren.

ABOUT NEW LIFE MINISTRIES

The LIFE process is a program of New Life Ministries, a cooperative initiative among five Anabaptist/ believers' church denominations, including the Church of the Brethren, and one para-church organization. New Life Ministries, incorporated in 1997 as the successor to The Andrew Center, provides materials, consultation, and workshops for congregations in the participating denominations in the areas of evangelism, church growth, and revitalization.

S. Joan Hershey is the coordinator of New Life Ministries. For more information, contact her at New Life Ministries, 1996 Donegal Springs Road, Mount Joy, Pa. 17552. Phone: 800-774-3360. E-mail: lifeminnew@aol.com.

> "As followers of Jesus we are called to another path, a path in which the sword is put away, the damage healed."

Canon of Holy Scriptures

Here is one 87-year-old Sunday school teacher and Bible student who, in Christian love and respect, does not agree with Brother Fenton Platter on the death penalty (see May Letters).

But my main reason for writing is to discuss his use of the term "the Bible." There is no such thing as "the" Bible. There are at least 27 major and recognizable versions of "The Canon of Holy Scriptures," not counting those translations into various languages. Brother Platter says the Bible is "to be believed as it was written." How exactly was it written? And by whom?

Let it be known that I, along with others, believe this book to be the greatest piece of literature ever written. It is most inspiring.

Don Snyder
Waynesboro, Va.

Put away your swords

In comment to the letter of Brother Platter [see "Bible and the death penalty," May], we may find another message in Matthew 26:51-54. In that scriptural passage, Jesus tells what it means to be in the world but not *of* it. The follower of Jesus is told to put his sword back in its place. The people of Jesus are not people of the sword.

Those who follow the ways of the world, that is those who live by the sword, will die by it, but that type of justice—an eye for an eye, a life for a life—is justice of the world. As followers of Jesus we are called to another path, a path in which the sword is put away, the damage healed (Luke 22:51), and forgiveness extended.

Karen Lefever
Los Angeles, Calif.

Pennsylvania geography

I wish to point out an error in the article "Celebrating a life full of Brethren memories," in the May issue, about Miriam Wagner.

She and I are both members of the Hanoverdale congregation of the Big Swatara District of the Atlantic Northeast District. Paxton church is also a part of our congregation.

Hanoverdale is east of Harrisburg and about five miles north of Hershey.

When Miriam left the farm, she moved into our neighborhood, and we provided her transportation to church.

Verna M. Wampler
Hummelstown, Pa.

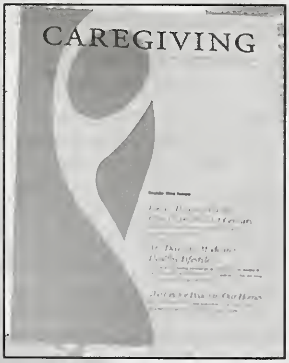
Poised for renewal

Thank you for the wonderful article covering the Renovaré conference in Elizabethtown, Pa. The content and spirit of the article were truly reflective of the experience. We are still feeling the results of the conference, well after the experience.

With this and similar efforts like Worshipful-Work [see June MESSENGER], as Brethren we are getting poised for renewal. In this case there is further grounding in terms of small Renovaré groups of spiritual encouragement, prayer partnerships, and individuals taking up the spiritual disciplines.

As a spiritual renewal team of the Atlantic Northeast District, an intentional emphasis is emerging on individual,

CAREGIVING IS



"*Caregiving* is excellent and I hope ABC continues with the same terrific content and design. Thumbs up!"

— R. Kurt Borgmann, pastor
Oakton Church of the Brethren, Vienna, Va.

CAREGIVING is a quarterly publication dedicated to providing practical information and the latest news about caring ministries for the Church of the Brethren. Learn about caring ministries including deacons, older adults, families, chaplains, retirement communities, disabilities and whole health. Subscriptions are available for $10 annually or at special congregation rates. Call ABC to subscribe.

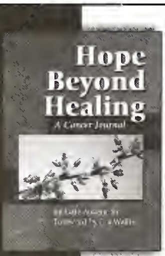
CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Association of Brethren Caregivers

1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120
phone 847-742-5100 fax 847-742-5160

"If we suddenly find ourselves face to face with dying, we come up against ultimate questions. . . . After I received the diagnosis of advanced lung cancer, I needed to deal with those questions more intensely than I ever had before."

—Dale Aukerman



Hope Beyond Healing:
A Cancer Journal
by Dale Aukerman available now from Brethren Press for $14.95 plus shipping and handling charges.

Brethren Press
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

Brethren Business Network

Serving God and Neighbor Through [illegible]

Join other Brethren in business for support, networking, learning, and service.

www.brethrenbusinessnetwork.net
info@brethrenbusinessnetwork.net
(219) 982-5232

group, and corporate spiritual growth being projected for a number of years in duration. Your article picked up so well the incremental steps we take to continue the growth and experience the joy.

Thank you for an article that conveyed the real meaning and excitement of the conference. And we again thank the many, many persons who made this experience possible.

> "With Renovaré and similar efforts, we are getting poised for renewal."

David S. Young,
Ephrata, Pa.,
Chair, Regional Renovaré Conference,
Co-chair, District Spiritual Renewal Team

We must be silent no longer

I recently received from the Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian and Gay Concerns (BMC) a short document offering guidelines on how the church and its leaders can help make discussion on homosexuality and other volatile matters more productive and fair. This "Fair Play" document had a number of excellent suggestions and helpful guidelines, including: "Do not tolerate the use of weapons" (verbal, written or otherwise), "Do not allow hostage-taking and threats," "Nothing about me without me" (borrowed from the Disability Rights Movement), and "Insist on educated, informed, and responsible dialogue."

These guidelines are indeed a helpful framework for our discussions, and BMC is to be credited for its hard work. However, I have to ask—what dialogue? It seems that many of us are perfectly content in sitting back and pretending that gay and lesbian Brethren do not exist. At the 1993 Wichita Annual Conference delegates passed a statement calling the church to refrain, for a period of five years, from bringing to conference business items concerning gays and lesbians. Unfortunately, many took that statement to mean that we should stop

> "I pray for the day when we can all worship together and see the presence of God in each person, whether straight or gay, whether white or Latino or African-American."

talking about our differences too.

The church must face its inaction and silence, and we must each do our part. I pray that we can begin again a dialogue in which each of us can share our struggles, our fears, and our hopes, all in an attitude of mutual love and respect. We must be silent no longer, and we can no longer pretend that those faithful lesbian and gay sisters and brothers among us do not exist.

I, for one, pray for the day when we can all worship together and see the presence of God in each person, whether straight or gay, whether white or Latino or African-American, whether from rural Ohio or urban Los Angeles. I pray for God to move in our midst.

John Harvey
Encinitas, Calif.

The death penalty, Moses to Jesus

The May MESSENGER arrived yesterday. As usual I read each word with care. I noted a letter from a longtime friend favoring the death penalty. Maybe my response will help him.

Moses was very heavy for the death penalty. I have gone through the books of Moses with a marker. I found many more than seven offenses calling for the death penalty. In Exodus 21 and 22 the death penalty is called for for one who strikes father or mother, one who steals a man for slavery, one who curses father or mother, one who takes a life, the owner of an ox that gores a second person, a sorceress, anyone having sex with a beast, anyone sacrificing to any god but the Lord, and anyone afflicting a widow or orphan.

There are at least 30 more Old Testament scriptures prescribing the death penalty for various offenses, including being a prophet or dreamer of dreams (Deut 13:5). If we should kill all the people Moses wanted to have killed, the population would not grow so rapidly.

You may find more. Now read Exodus 2:11-15. When Moses had killed a man he did not favor the death penalty. He skipped the country and got a new identity. In time God used the murderer-Moses as the leader of the children of Israel.

Jesus was thought to differ from Moses on what to do about sins in

---

The opinions expressed in Letters are not necessarily those of the magazine. Readers should receive them in the same spirit with which differing opinions are expressed in face-to-face conversations.

Letters should be brief, concise, and respectful of the opinions of others. Preference is given to letters that respond directly to items read in the magazine.

We are willing to withhold the name of a writer only when, in our editorial judgment, it is warranted. We will not consider any letter that comes to us unsigned. Whether or not we print the letter, the writer's name is kept in strictest confidence.

Address letters to MESSENGER editor, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

on Earth peace

Position Available

On Earth Peace Assembly, Inc., a 25-year-old Church of the Brethren peace education movement, seeks Executive Director applicants.

Responsibilities include envisioning, designing, and implementing peace education strategy and program.

Experience preferred with management, fund-raising, and nonviolence education.

Seeking person with strong commitment to the centrality of peace and reconciliation in the mission of the church, and management skills consistent with the values of nonviolence.

For more information contact us: OEPA, PO Box 188, New Windsor, MD 21776; oepa@oepa.org; 410-635-8704; or www.brethren.org/oepa.

straight talk from a Brethren sister
Wanda L. Callahan

Yes, but . . .

Wanda Callahan, a "sister" or member in the Church of the Brethren, has never been one to wait for events to shape her. Rather, she has proactively sought to change her world.

Thus Callahan has spent a lifetime as an activist in many areas. In pithy, direct style, this book addresses such areas, including advocacy for the poor, for women in leadership, and for prisoners on death row.

"Wanda Callahan's deep faith and her practical understanding of Christian discipleship shine through every page of this satisfying and valuable book."
—*Bob Gross, Coordinator, Ministry of Reconciliation, Church of the Brethren*

Herald
Press

Paper, 112 pages, $8.99;
in Canada $13.49

Orders: 1 800 759-4447
ww.mph.org

LETTERS

> "In recent years I have become concerned that we are becoming more like the Unitarians, and less like the New Testament church, in our vision statement and in our total faith and life."

John 8:1-8. Jesus knows that not one of us is sinless enough to give the death penalty. When Jesus was being crucified he prayed that God would forgive the ones taking his life.

Most of us have a long way to go to understand the Jesus way of dealing with all evil. He was clear in asking for a sinless person to cast the first stone.

Millions believe that Jesus knew God better than Moses did. I pray that the day may come when all can hear and follow the way of Jesus.

E. Paul Weaver
Everett, Pa.

Famous vision statements

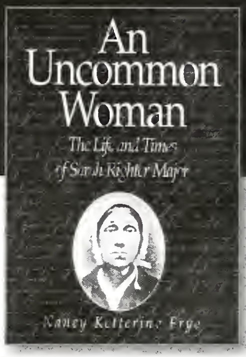
"Of God, for God, with God." This new "vision statement" of the General Board will be frequently seen in our Brethren publications.

As I reflect on this statement, I am made aware that it could readily be the vision statement of the Jews, or the Muslims, or the Unitarians, or of almost any religious group in the world.

The Gospels and the New Testament Church had as the center of their "vision statement" a simple yet profound truth: "Jesus is Lord." The Apostle Peter, as recorded in Acts 4:12, was certain: "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." The Apostle Paul proclaimed to the world his vision statement to the church at Corinth: "I preach Christ...the power of God and the wisdom of God... I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 1:23-24, 2:2).

Over the years I have had close friends who are Unitarian in their religious faith. I have studied their faith, and respect how they study and live it. In recent years I have become deeply concerned that the Church of the Brethren is continually becoming more like the Unitarians, and less like the New Testament church, in our vision statement and in our total faith and life as a church.

Olden D. Mitchell
North Manchester, Ind.



Man, that woman can preach.

An Uncommon Woman:
The Life and Times of Sarah Righter Major

Nancy Kettering Frye, *Brethren Press*. Infamous in the mid 1800s as a woman preacher in a man's world, Sister Sarah bravely preached the gospel wherever people invited her to speak. Nancy Kettering Frye provides details, facts, and stories about the life of the first female Brethren preacher. Step into the 19th century and meet the men and women who influenced Sarah Righter Major's life and supported her preaching ministry. #8224, $6.95

Brethren Press

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

CLASSIFIEDADS

Christian Family Practice group is seeking a family physician to join our growing practice. We are located in North Central Indiana, near Goshen. We provide obstetrics with many deliveries done at an Amish Birthing Center near Shipshewana. Opportunities for short- or long-term missions. Independently owned (six physicians & one PA) and committed to remaining sensitive to the needs of the local community. Option to buy in. Contact Steve Wendler, Administrator, at Middlebury Family Physicians, PO Box 459, Middlebury, IN 46540. Day telephone: 219-825-2900 Evening: 219-825-7506.

Good Shepherd Home is seeking a full-time chaplain for this rural 100-bed nursing home and licensed 50-bed rest home located in Fostoria, Ohio. This position will provide spiritual care to the residents, families and employees. If willing, the chaplain may assist the executive director and Board of Trustees with fund raising and development projects. Good Shepherd Home prefers candidates who are licensed or ordained ministers with strong written and verbal skills. Send or fax resumes to Chris Widman, executive director, phone (419) 435-1801; fax (419) 435-1594.

Travel with a purpose. Visit the "Cradle of Civilization," March 16-29, 2001. Featuring: crossing the Red Sea, visiting Mt. Sinai, cruising on the Sea of Galilee, cable car ride to Massada. Visit Petra, the rose city, Jerusalem, The Holy Land, St. Catherine Monastery on Mt. Sinai. Full breakfast and dinner throughout. For information write Wendell and Joan Bohrer, 8520 Royal Meadow Drive, Indianapolis, IN. 46217. Tel/fax 317-882-5067. E-mail rdwboh@aol.com.

Visiting Washington, D.C.? Come worship with us at the Arlington Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St, Arlington, Virginia. Phone 703-524-4100. Services: Sunday School 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Summer Hours: June 4 thru September 3. Worship 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School. Nursery Services Provided. Roseann B. Cook, Pastor.

Wooden plaques of the Coventry Church of the Brethren are available for purchase. Cost is $12.00 per plaque which includes S & H. To obtain one of these 275th anniversary specials, contact Linda Wood in the church office at 610-326-5426; or send a check made payable to Coventry Church of the Brethren, 946 Keen Road, Pottstown, PA 19465-6532 with notation, Anniversary Committee. Include shipping address in request.

York Center congregation in Lombard, IL will celebrate 50 years of ministry in 2001. To kick-off our anniversary we will have a celebration weekend August 12 and 13, 2000. If you have been a part of the York Center family we hope you will join us for this celebration. For more information call the church office at 630-627-7411 or e-mail Pastor Christy Waltersdorf (cwaltersdorff@mindspring.com).

This month's Turning Points includes all listings received prior to 5/11/00 not previously published. Forms for submitting Turning Points information are available by calling Peggy Reinacher at 800-323-8039.

New members

Antioch, Rocky Mount, Va.: Melvin Fike, Lisa Fike, Joel Sowers
Arcadia, Ind.: Don Knapp, Dorothy Knapp
Bear Creek, Accident, Md.: Carol Smith, Jessica Smith, Katie Sizemore, Karen Sizemore
Bradford, Ohio: Truman Scott Bashore, Esther Naomi Bashore
Curryville, Martinsburg, Pa.: Yvette Brumbaugh
Greenmount, Harrisonburg, Va.: Justin S. Dean, Quentin L. Biller, Lenwell H. Sacra, Donna Gail Sacra, Charles S. Biller, Gene Smith, Michelle Smith
Harper Woods, Mich.: Tina Eckhart
Independence, Kan.: Danielle Gallagher, Betty Mayo, Mary Padley, Crystal and Douglas Wheeler
Lititz, Pa.: Lindsay Bednar, Carly Hess, Lisa Kreider, Jordan Rice, Joanna Witmer, Toby Enck, Dan Ober, Jim Ross, Barbara Showers, Harry Mumma, Terry Ross
Locust Grove, Johnstown, Pa.: Rebecca Birtle, Diane Christine, Christy Fyock, Ashley Kirkwood, Ryan Pristow, Tom Ream, Adam Thomas, Timothy Thomas, Lorie Wilt
Logansport, Ind.: Nicole Brown, Brenda Gaumer, Kayla Kite
Maitland, Lewistown, Pa.: Ty Angney, Jeffery Molek, Donovan Kratzer, Tony Poorman
McPherson, Kan.: Nathan Clary, Jamie Crist, Matthew Hoffman, Tim Houghton, Tyler Hughes, Jr., Bryan Jordan, Jordan Rothrock, Scott Vancil, Adam Wagoner, Joel Wagoner, Jan Diaz, Manny Diaz, Paul Liepelt, Brenda Lolling, Darlene Nelson, Marvin Nelson, Irven Stern, Patricia Stern
Maple Grove, Ashland, Ohio: Paul and Ella Myers, Brenda Henderson, June Tritle, Joe Woodring, Barbara Woodring
Maple Grove, New Paris, Ind.: Tiffany Berkey, Kelsey Garris, Jami Hoover, Marlena Marquart, Jamie Miller
Mechanic Grove, Quarryville, Pa.: Richard Drennen III, Sylvia Drennen, Chris Purcell, Walter Buckley, Angel Weigand, Linda Waltman, Gerard Rosolie, Jill Rosolie, Susan Mull, Herb and Donna Martin, Shawn and Laura Love, Albert and Betty Pyle, Matthew Kreider, Genny Bledsoe, Jason Futcher, Matthew Groff, Leann Hart, Kandace Kreider, Trista Kreider, Tye Kreider, Rairdan Munro, Marian Osborne, Rebecca Wimer
Modesto, Calif.: Dortha and R. Norman Johnson
Mohler, Ephrata, Pa.: Ivan and Dorothy Ludwig
Monroeville, Pa.: Kelsey Brewer, Kristin Brewer, Bryan Furey, Julie Hernley, Hayle Ritchey
New Carlisle, Ohio: Aaron Larson, Andrew Larson, Denise Barlow, Samantha Larason, Cameron Dogget, Timothy Woelfer, Jeremy Funderburg, Shirley Bell, Andrew Gibson, Cheryl Gibson, Doug Gibson, Rodney Funderburg, Anna Reno
New Enterprise, Pa.: Paul and Jennie Turner, Davey Leidy, Danielle Settlemyer, Tracy Brunner, Madeline Kanode, Brittany Kanode
North Liberty, Ind.: Christopher Beyer
Northview, Indianapolis, Ind.: Anna Grady, Lida Emerson, Carol Emerson, Jacob Grady
Peace, Portland, Ore.: Jennifer Sheppler, Robert Cone
Peach Blossom, Easton, Md.: Kathy Moore, Leo Truban, Joy Marshall
Pine Creek, North Liberty, Ind.: Jason Deckard, Lauren Mangus
Pittsburgh, Pa.: Zinnia Blackwood
Sangerville, Bridgewater, Va.: Dwayne Fifer, Ian Horn, Matthew Ridgeway, Eric Sheets, Kimberly Atkins, Danny Lambert
Snake Spring Valley, Everett, Pa.: Mike Dunkle, Janice Dunkle, Amber Dunkle, Janelle Dunkle, Sara Redman
West Goshen, Goshen, Ind.: Beth Hochstetler
Westminster, Md.: William Landon, Erica A. Royer, Ashley Cavanaugh, Curtis Wharton
Winter Park, Fla.: Rhonda Neal

Wedding anniversaries

Baker, Clyde and Glenna, Bradford, Ohio, 55
Bruckhart, Abe and Mary, Palmyra, Pa., 65
Gift, Donald and LaRue, Chambersburg, Pa., 60
Gingrich, Lloyd and Velma, Lebanon, Pa., 50
Gorden, Israel and Edwina, Goshen, Ind., 72
Harclerode, Joan and Howard, Everett, Pa., 50
Hostetler, Harley and Louise, Goshen, Ind., 50
Lambert, Mervin and Janet, Harrisonburg, Va., 60
Leapley, Ralph and Elizabeth, New Carlisle, Ohio, 50
Lehman, John and Maxine, Johnstown, Pa., 50
Roeth, James and Ruth, Bradford, Ohio, 55
Thomas, John M. and Louise, Valrico, Fla., 60
Walter, Donald and Rosella, Martinsburg, Pa., 50
Wine, Ray and Ann, Harrisonburg, Va., 50
Zuck, Nevin and Leah, Lancaster, Pa., 60

Deaths

Adams, Stella M., 95, Staunton, Va., April 27
Alley, Helen R., 84, Bridgewater, Va., April 1
Anderson, Lorenia, 89, Virden, Ill., April 16
Andes, Francis B., 85, Timberville, Va., April 9
Bankert, Pauline Miller, 93, Hanover, Pa., May 1
Barritt, Cheri Frazier, 39, Omaha, Neb., March 13
Beck, Rosemary, 51, Brinkhaven, Ohio, April 24
Benner, Phyllis, 61, Ephrata, Pa., April 8
Boitnott, John W., 102, Bridgewater, Va., March 31
Burnside, Mable, 84, Trotwood, Ohio, Nov. 27
Clark, Mary, Easton, Md., Oct. 2
Clark, Robert, 81, Easton, Md., March 16
Clinton, Dennis, 90, Virden, Ill., April 10
Cochran, Violet, 82, Berlin, Pa., March 7
Cox, Philip A., 46, New Carlisle, Ohio, April 29
Crites, Jeremy L., 18, Moorefield, W.Va., April 23
Crumley, William C., 87, Knoxville, Tenn., March 28
Dancy, Frances Sheets, 98, Jacksonville, Fla., April 29
Darr, Cora "Ferne," 85, Sipesville, Pa., March 12
Dellinger, Floyd E., Sr., 69, Fulks Run, Va., April 1
Diehl, Robert, 86, West Alexandria, Ohio, March 31
Dove, Evalyn, 90, Manassas, Va., May 23, 1999
Dove, L. Clifford, 88, Manassas, Va., Feb. 22
Ebling, Dudley, 74, Easton, Md., June 17
Edmiston, Joseph, 84, Lewistown, Pa., March 29
Emswiler, Esther, 84, McPherson, Kan., March 21
Erbaugh, Ruth, 87, Brandon, Fla., Feb. 21
Etter, Dwane W., 98, Chambersburg, Pa., Feb. 1
Faidley, Norman, 83, Somerset, Pa., Jan. 21
Faust, Gladys H., 71, Chambersburg, Pa., Feb. 29
Feaster, Emmett D., 92, Petersburg, W.Va., March 31
Fetters, Samuel, 75, Lewistown, Pa., Nov. 13
Finiff, Charles E., 88, Chambersburg, Pa., Feb. 18
Fisher, Edna J., 92, Fulks Run, Va., April 10
Ford, Eva E., 66, Timberville, Va., April 25
Frazier, Clifton E., 81, Grottoes, Va., April 15
Ganger, Olive, 93, Greenville, Ohio, March 17
Gift, Lois E., 83, Chambersburg, Pa., Feb. 14
Harper, Ella O., 89, Moyers, W.Va., April 15
Harper, Elsie, 94, Moyers, W.Va., April 10
Hartman, Blanche R., 87, April 26
Hash, Ruby Mae, 86, Luray, Va., April 2
Hicks, Raymond G., 56, Champaign, Ill., April 29
Hoffman, Clark, 81, Somerset, Pa., Jan. 31
Hubbard, Treva, 84, Bradford, Ohio, March 10
Isenberg, James D., 94, Knoxville, Tenn., March 14
Johnson, Kenneth, 80, Troy, Ohio, March 20
Jones, Ethel M., 87, Chambersburg, Pa., March 30
Knupp, Roy, 86, Gray, Pa., March 28
Koontz, Leona, 90, Ebensburg, Pa., April 28
Larsen, Nellie, 93, Council Bluffs, Iowa, April 7
Livingston, Robert J., 82, Covington, Ohio, Jan. 4
Lobb, Dorthy, 79, Johnstown, Pa., Jan. 22
Long, Edythe E., 89, Luray, Va., March 30
Looker, Darrell, 61, Piqua, Ohio, Dec. 27
Lunsford, Ernest, 88, Bealeton, Va., Nov. 2
Martz, Mary K., 84, Edinburg, Va., April 24
McNett, Leah E., 76, Bridgewater, Va., April 11
Miller, Jennie, 94, Friendsville, Md., Jan. 31
Miller, Margaret, 61, Accident, Md., Jan. 27
Mitchell, Reba, 79, Fairview, Ore., March 12
Mohler, Elizabeth, 101, Warrensburg, Mo., April 15
Painter, Sarah F., 85, Stanley, Va., April 30
Peyton, Katherine, 89, Hollidaysburg, Pa., Sept. 27
Richard, Sadie, 91, Lewistown, Pa., Sept. 29
Sanger, Henry, Easton, Md., March 22
Sager, Otis, 84, Lost River, W.Va., March 17
Seese, Norman, Easton, Md., Jan. 1
Shaw, Kenneth, 79, Danville, Ohio, April 1
Shepherd, Ted, 81, Nokesville, Va., Sept. 30
Shifflett, Larry L., 49, South Daytona Beach, Fla., April 1
Shull, Everett W., 83, N. Manchester, Ind., April 26
Simmons, Dorothy, 80, Johnstown, Pa., April 11
Simmons, Marie V., 74, Sugar Grove, W.Va., April 17
Speers, Terry, 41, Trotwood, Ohio, Nov. 21
Stambaugh, Florence M., 90, New Oxford, Pa., April 28
Stoltz, Patricia, 67, New Carlisle, Ohio, March 7
Walkup, Norman K., 50, Mount Crawford, Va., April 16
Weimer, Ralph, 76, Manassas, Va., Aug. 31
Wood, Hester, 96, Boones Mill, Va., Feb. 7

Licensings

Fleshman, Greg, April 9, Buena Vista, Va.
Hileman, Michael C., April 30, Ashland Dickey, Ashland, Ohio
Reece, Kathy, April 30, Dallas Center, Iowa
Remillet, Charles, March 19, Buffalo, Ind.
Yankey, Robert, 59, Nokesville, Va., Oct. 17
Young, Frank P., April 30, Tire Hill, Pa.

Ordinations

Coffin, Joseph H., Feb. 20, Windfall, Ind.
Miller-Rieman, Ken, March 5, Huntington, Ind.
Wray, Harry, Feb. 13, Kokomo, Ind.

Pastoral placement

Barber, Howard, to Barren Ridge, Staunton, Va.
Jones, Gregory L., to Fairview, Unionville, Iowa
Sayles, Frank, to Bethel, Arriba, Colo.

To Sam, on becoming an Eagle Scout

Scouts know the group is the thing, all for one. But there will be times when like an eagle you will soar alone....

Life will give you many occasions for sorting out when to work as part of the group and when to act alone.

Dear Sam,
On June 1 you will become an Eagle Scout. Congratulations. You barely know me, but your father is my best friend and I am inspired by his son's achievement. You will now be marked for life as a leader. If you ever run for political office, this will tell the voters you are one who not only believes in core values, but you have done the work they imply. Being an Eagle Scout will give you moral authority. Use it well.

Because I never got to the rank of Eagle—I stumbled on my citizenship merit badges—I look up to you all the more. Like you, I stayed in scouting long after many of my agemates had dropped out. I became a Senior Patrol Leader, and in that role worked to give the younger boys some of the wonderful experiences I had had coming up. We were famous for campouts. While other troops had neat flag ceremonies at their meetings, or learned to march with military precision, we spent our meetings sorting gear from the last campout or planning the next one.

I got my education around the campfire, listening to the older boys share their ignorance about sex, and learning to smoke grapevines. Our scoutmasters had that rare quality of knowing how to disappear. They knew when to reappear too, telling us when to knock it off and be quiet.

It was long after Taps that day was finally done, gone the sun. All is well, safely rest, God is nigh. Alone under the big night sky, God became real to me. I grew up under the stars. And I awoke to the dawn telling me the way I live my life matters.

It was in scouting that I learned the power of the group, one for all, all for one. Trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind ... these weren't just theoretical concepts, or even rules for behavior around adults; they were how we treated each other. If somebody fell behind on a hike we waited till they caught up. We could be cruel, of course, but we knew that was contrary to the scout way. We were taught that fat kids got included, that poor kids looked the same in uniform, and black kids were welcome in our group.

Lately the Boy Scouts have taken a rap for trying to keep certain people out, but this isn't the Scouts I knew. We were physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight—but not narrow. When I was at the National Jamboree in 1964 our troop had a cookout with a troop from Massachusetts. At the end of the evening the scoutmaster from New England suggested that we form a "lodge circle" around the campfire. Our group from southern Illinois didn't know how to make a lodge circle; I assumed it might be a regional scout tradition we needed to learn. Only after he repeated the instruction several times did we catch on that we were to form a "large" circle. Scouting for me is about making the circle lodger and lodger.

Scouts know the group is the thing, all for one. But there will be times when like an eagle you will soar alone. Some of my first lessons in personal courage came from your grandmother, who was my fourth-grade teacher. She would be so proud of you now. I remember she would bark, "Stand up straight, don't slouch," and I knew she was correcting my character as well as my posture. If I would hedge an answer she would say, "Don't be wishy-washy." I think of her when I am called to stand up straight and name a wrong.

Her lessons were confirmed in scouting, when I was "tapped out" for the Order of the Arrow. I have vivid memories of the night I lined up with my fellow scouts on the lakeshore at camp, shirtless for this solemn occasion. On the far side of the lake we saw an Indian chief in full headdress, standing in the bow of a canoe, his face lighted by a torch. He was paddled across the water, to the slow beat of a drum. When he finally reached our side of the lake he dismounted the canoe and walked silently in back of our line, stopping behind selected scouts. We would hear his open palm pound the bare shoulder of those singled out—three loud slaps and then they were led away. Finally he stopped behind me. I can still feel the pain of his hand on my shoulder, and the thrill it brought to my soul. You know the rest, which is not to be disclosed. Jesus too was sent into the wilderness for a time of testing. And from there he emerged a leader, one for all.

Life will give you many occasions for sorting out when to work as part of the group and when to act alone. Your father and I have both been guided by Rudyard Kipling's poem *If*:

"If you can keep your head when all about you/ Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;/ If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,/ but make allowance for their doubting too;/ If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,/ Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,/ Or being hated, don't give way to hating,/ And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise...."

For you, Sam, I would add some "ifs" of my own. If you can use your strength as an Eagle to stand up for what is right, ... if you as a leader can get the group to include the last, the lost, the least ... then, as Kipling concludes: "Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,/ And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!"—**Fletcher Farrar**

YOU'LL PROBABLY SPEND TWO DAYS PREPARING TO GO TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

WHY NOT TAKE AN HOUR OR TWO, ONCE YOU'RE THERE, TO PREPARE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?

Annual Conference 2000 in Kansas City will be a great time to learn about your retirement and insurance options.

■ BRETHREN PENSION PLAN

Plan for a more financially secure retirement

Insight Session:
Putting your ducks in a row for retirement.
Presented by BBT's Employee Financial Services.
Tuesday, July 18, 9:00 pm.

Exhibit: Are you a member of the Brethren Pension Plan and approaching retirement? Stop by the BBT booth to request a calculation of your projected annuity.

■ BRETHREN FLEXCARE PLAN

FlexCare can save active members tax money

Insight Session:
What's for lunch? Tax Money!
A focus on BBT's FlexCare Cafeteria Plan.
Sunday, July 16, 9:00 pm

Exhibit: Active clergy and lay church employees, stop by the BBT booth to ask about all of your insurance options. Retired pastors, stop by to ask about optional vision and dental coverage.

Not attending Annual Conference? Call us at 800-746-1505 to learn more about your Pension and FlexCare options.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
BENEFIT TRUST
INC.

1505 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1619 • 800-746-1505 • 847-742-0135 fax

Think of MAA as an Extension of the Church

Brethren Helping Brethren

We insure members of The Church of the Brethren and member churches exclusively...and we want to transform the way you and your fellow church members think about insurance. We want your experience with Mutual Aid Association to be so unique that you see us as an extension of the Church.

We aren't a congregation or a district, but we continue the practices of the Church in the way that we reach out and care for you and for one another. Because we believe in the message of Christ and follow the teachings of the Church, you can think of the Mutual Aid Association as part of your Church community. We genuinely believe in the ideal of Brethren joining together for mutual aid. Here is one story out of many that illustrates our faith-centered business practices.

A New Church Rises From The Ashes

More than a dozen volunteer fire companies fought the flames, but the fire burned for nearly twenty-four hours until the Manchester Church of the Brethren was a hollow brick shell. Built in 1907 and extensively remodeled in 1950, the church was undergoing a major expansion to bring church offices, Sunday school rooms, and a nursery under one roof. Then sometime during the night of January 7, 1998, fire broke out near an electric hot water heater. All that was left of the 90-year-old church and its new addition would soon be dozed to the ground and trucked away.

That same day, a team from Mutual Aid's Abilene office arrived. On this first of several visits, the Mutual Aid Association workers stayed a week. They met with church leaders to handle the inventory of lost contents and other specifics. They also met with individual church members to help them deal with their sense of loss and say farewell to their old building. Church members commented that the MAA workers became part of the church family and helped the congregation maintain its ministry and spiritual health. On the financial side, church members said that the Mutual Aid Association tried to help in every way it could and was very generous in the final settlement.

After a lengthy process of planning, construction on the new Manchester Church began in April 1999 – at a new 25-acre site that offers room to grow for many years to come.

All of us at Mutual Aid Association are proud to have played a part in building the new Manchester Church. Services started in March and on April 30, 2000, the Manchester congregation dedicated the building and began its spiritual journey in its new home.

Get Security You Can Depend On

The Mutual Aid Association has been faithfully meeting the property insurance needs of Brethren Churches and Church members for over a century. We offer free property appraisals and support services designed to protect your financial security and peace of mind.

Call 1-800-255-1243 Day or Night

You can also reach us by e-mail at maa@maabrethren.com or over our toll-free, 24-hour fax line at 1-800-238-7535. Our Web address is www.maabrethren.com.

Mutual Aid Association
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

A ministry of sharing to secure peace of mind.

© Copyright 2000E Mutual Aid Association MAA-2013

hurch
f the
thren

MESSENGER

AUGUST 2000 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG

A NEW VISION FOR BRETHREN HOMES

RAVES FOR THE JUBILEE TOUR • BACK TO WORK IN INDIA

Share the Experiences of a Lifetime!

The Brethren Homes of the Atlantic Northeast District invite you to explore the care and refreshing lifestyles at your doorstep...

"Life as good as it can get! – in a relaxed, care-free, attractive environment, among congenial contemporaries, supported by Christian love and service. Praise God!"

- FRANK & DOROTHY HORST

"We enjoy living at Brethren Village because it provides choices for us to live in an upbeat, well-managed, caring, Christ-centered community of persons from diverse backgrounds."

- CURTIS & ANNA MARY DUBBLE

"Living at Peter Becker Community offers us the opportunity to meet new Christian friends with similar interests. We have peace of mind knowing all our needs will be met."

- WILMER & RUTH HARTLEY

Lebanon Valley
Brethren Home
1200 Grubb Street
Palmyra, PA 17078
(717) 838-5406

Brethren Village
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
3001 Lititz Pike
PO Box 5093
Lancaster, PA 17606
(717) 569-2657

Peter
Becker
Community
800 Maple Avenue
Harleysville, PA 19438
(215) 256-9501

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

AUGUST 2000 VOL.149 NO.7 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG

nurch
f the
thren

MESSENGER

r: **Fletcher Farrar** Publisher: **Wendy McFadden** News: **Walt Wiltschek** Advertising: **Russ Matteson** Subscriptions: **Peggy Reinacher** Designer: **Paul Stocksdale**

ON THE COVER

Rita Moyer, therapeutic services coordinator at Peter Becker Community, Harleysville, Pa., gives Lucy Calvanese a hug at the facility's Health Care picnic. Rita is one of hundreds of dedicated workers who give care in the name of the Church of the Brethren at Brethren Homes, featured in this issue. The Homes often minister to the workers as well, primarily by providing a spiritual atmosphere for work, where loving care comes before profit.

Merv Keeney

10 Jubilee tour

When Rosella Wiens Regier went on the road to promote Jubilee curriculum in Church of the Brethren congregations, she found an enthusiastic reception in all 14 districts she visited. She also found concern for the future of Christian education.

12 Special section: Brethren Homes

Across the nation, the 24 Church of the Brethren Homes provide loving care in spiritual settings. For more than a century, Homes have been an important ministry of the church, both as healthcare facilities and retirement communities. Now, in an era of increased competition and regulatory challenges, they are clinging to their roots as faith-based ministries, nurturing relationships with congregations, and sharing services under the banner of the Fellowship of Brethren Homes. These articles were prepared by the Association of Brethren Caregivers.

10
APOCALYPS WHEN?

Julie Hostetter

21 A sister church in India?

A group called the Church of the Brethren in India has applied to the US church for official recognition, and the situation seems ready-made for an emerging global church structure. But it is complicated by 30 years of history, promises, and property. Editor Fletcher Farrar provides an in-depth background report to help readers decide a complex issue facing the church.

DEPARTMENTS

2 **From the Publisher**
3 **In Touch**
6 **News**
27 **Letters**
30 **Turning Points**
32 **Editorial**

FROM THE PUBLISHER

My 486 computer at home is a hopeless relic. On the information highway, it travels like a bicycle. I use it mainly to exchange e-mail, though even that downloads slowly. Our household pays for the bare minimum in monthly hours of Internet usage, and we never exceed that because pedaling from page to page is too boring to do it for long. It's so slow that I can actually do laundry at the same time I'm surfing the Web. Fortunately, the high-speed access I get at the office with a T1 line feels more like driving a sportscar.

Sometimes exploring the Internet is just plain fun. Though following an endless number of tangents can still feel disorienting for someone steeped in linear thinking, it's fascinating to see the array of information available through a few clicks.

But for most organizations nowadays, having a website isn't just for fun. It's an important part of the way they communicate with their constituents. It might even be the way they get their constituents.

That is becoming true even for the Church of the Brethren, which has not usually been known for being on the cutting edge of technology. An increasing number of pastors are online and would like to use their computers to enhance their ministries. Congregations are designing web pages in addition to printed brochures. Church leaders are ready to receive study materials and worship resources by downloading them from the Web. Future volunteers are finding Brethren Volunteer Service via the Internet.

The folks that oversee www.brethren.org (it's sponsored by seven agencies and is an example of successful collaboration) have recognized that it's time to take the Church of the Brethren website to the next level. A new and improved website made its debut last month with sharper graphics, a search function, and better links. Coming soon is the capability to find congregations by state. By fall an e-commerce site will feature Brethren Press and ABC stores. And before long people will be able to register for conferences and workcamps online.

Also new to the site is additional information about who the Brethren are. We intend to continually grow this section of the site, since we believe one of its most important purposes is to be welcoming and helpful to those who know nothing about the Brethren.

Our goal is to use the tools available to us to do the best communication we can, to widen the circle, and to make sure our message can be heard in a new era. Like the main page of the website says, we're continuing the work of Jesus.

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

Messenger
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:
preinacher_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 847-742-5100
Fax: 847-742-6103

Display advertising:
rmatteson_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039
Fax: 847-742-1407

Editorial:
ffarrar_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 217-525-9083
Fax: 217-525-9269

Subscription rates:
$16.50 individual rate
$13.50 church group plan
$13.50 gift subscriptions

If you move, clip address label and send with new address to Messenger Subscriptions, at the above address. Allow at least five weeks for address change.

Connect electronically:
For a free subscription to *Newsline*, the Church of the Brethren e-mail news report, write cobnews@aol.com.

To view the official Church of the Brethren website, go to http://www. brethren.org.

Messenger is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage matter Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 17, 1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of the Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religion News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Biblical quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New Revised Standard Version. Messenger is published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Church of the Brethren General Board. Periodical postage paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing office, August 2000. Copyright 2000, Church of the Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0355.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Messenger, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

Printed on recycled paper

From devastation to hope in Kansas

Southeast Kansas will long remember April 19, 2000 for tornados.

Vernon and Barbara Egbert, members of Osage Church of the Brethren, McCune, Kan., had spent forty years on their farm. All the hopes and dreams of a young couple were put into building a farm business and raising two boys. The tornado struck about 9 p.m. and every building on their place was destroyed, including their house and barn. It wasn't long before family, friends, and neighbors started pouring in to help salvage what could be saved.

Morning saw at least 100 people bringing cleaning tools, boxes, tractors, and grain-handling equipment. The women brought food. A lot of people helped to make the first days bearable after the tornado.

As some of the neighbors visited during the cleanup, they laughingly talked about needing a "barn raising." Some of the younger farmers thought that was a good idea and the moderator of the Osage Church of the Brethren, who is a retired building contractor, felt that was something he could do. Within three weeks, supplies had been delivered and a day was set for this "barn raising." Thirty men showed up that day and studding and rafters were put up before dark. That building looked great going up amidst so much destruction. It gave everyone hope that life would be better.

—Barbara Egbert

Symbolically ending their family's infamous feud, *Church of the Brethren pastor Terry Hatfield, left, and Bo McCoy anoint each other.*

Tug of peace between Hatfields and McCoys

The Brethren ordinance of anointing was the focal point of healing in an historic June worship service on the Tug River at the border of West Virginia and Kentucky.

Pastor Terry Hatfield of the Panora, Iowa Church of the Brethren and the Rev. Bo McCoy, a Pentecostal minister from Georgia, anointed each other on the Matewan-Buskirk bridge in a symbolic act of forgiveness and healing.

The Hatfield and McCoy Unity Worship Service was the next to the last event of a week-long celebration of the "Reunion of the Millennium: Hatfield and McCoy 2000," and brought a new dimension to the ending of this famous family feud of the 1880s.

Terry Hatfield was asked to be the representative preacher for the Hatfield family at the worship service. He brought the Brethren ordinance of anointing into the service to provide a spiritual moment, which he said, "will hopefully bring the light of the Holy Spirit into what was a time of darkness for the families involved and this region of Appalachia."

While the Hatfield and McCoy feud was not the biggest of the various family feuds in the 19th century, it was the most publicized. As a result, Terry says, "The image of the violent and ignorant hillbilly has been associated with the region and with those family names ever since."

While a tug-of-war with a rope across the river ended the festivities (the Hatfields lost!), the "tug-of peace" over the bridge brought glory to God and made everyone a winner.

Connecting Families event draws 90

Connecting Families, an annual gathering of Anabaptist families and friends of gay and lesbian persons enjoyed fellowship, singing, sharing, and learning April 7-9 at Antiochian Village near Ligonier, Pa.

This annual event, begun in 1989 with seven Brethren and Mennonite parents attending, drew 90 persons this year. The gatherings are intended to provide a safe and relaxing setting in which to share concerns about how homosexuality affects families, friends, and churches.

The guest speaker was Ralph Blair, founder of Evangelicals Concerned, and a psychotherapist working primarily with gay men in New York City. He spoke on "Lawless Gay-bashing Churches," based on the Ten Commandments, and "Law-Free, Gay-Friendly Churches," based on Galatians. Interested persons may learn more about Connecting Families by contacting Dick and June Blouch at junedick@paonline.com

Songs help children to *"chatter with angels"*

A disappointing search for an illustrated children's hymnbook that she truly enjoys has finally ended for Linda Richer, of Skyridge Church of the Brethren in Kalamazoo, Mich.

"I grew up in a family where we were taught not to complain, but to do something," said Linda. And so she did something. Working with her friend Anita Stoltzfus Breckbill, Linda spent much of the last five years reviewing hundreds of hymnals, selecting hymns from them, winnowing the selections, and adapting them for children. Their own backgrounds in music and education helped them in this process. Then Linda and Anita worked with an illustrator, a children's music teacher, an arranger, and additional musicians to produce *Chatter With the Angels: An Illustrated Songbook for Children*, which has just been published by GIA Publications.

This collection of 90 hymns adapted for children accomplishes several goals Linda finds important. The book was planned primarily as a book for parents and children to use together, but it includes a strong core of songs and aids that make it appropriate for children's choirs and education programs.

Careful consideration was given to ensuring that the texts of songs for the book in order to portray God as gentle and loving. The tunes have been adapted to suit children's voices, and represent a variety of cultural traditions.

"And," says Linda, "children remember things better if they have an image to go along with the words." So *Chatter with the Angels* incorporates artwork with each song.

But the book's main goal, as the introduction says, is "to introduce our children to Christian songs that they would find enjoyable, meaningful, and enduring." The book is available for $29.95 from Brethren Press.—**Ruth Moerdyk**

Karen Calderon, center, pastor of Koinonia Church of the Brethren, Grand Junction, Colo., *recently received the White Ribbon Award from the Human Services Council of Mesa County, Colo. Karen was cited for her role in developing a mission statement for Hand-in-Hand Ministries, a new ecumenical agency that assists families making the transition from public assistance to self-sufficiency. Karen, who serves as president of the board, is joined by co-directors Patty Kester and Jill Lacey. Hand-in-Hand Ministries has been a recipient of Global Food Crisis Fund grants the past two years.*

Jeters Chapel dedicates fellowship hall

On Sunday, May 7, more than 175 attended the dedication of the new Jeters Chapel Church of the Brethren fellowship hall in Bedford County, Va.

The new addition includes a baptistry, kitchen, large multi-purpose room and additional Sunday school space. Valued at approximately $250,000, only $94,000 in debt remains. Paris E. "Pete" Bain is pastor.

District staff members meet in **California**

On March 30 nine District Administrative Assistants and Secretaries (DAAS) and their Council of District Executives (CODE) liaison met at Brethren Hillcrest Homes in La Verne, Calif., for their biennial professional growth event. Representing 10 of the Church of the Brethren's 23 district offices, participants were able to share with others who work in district offices.

Dr. Gene Carper of the La Verne congregation taught the group principles of classic design for publications, information useful for production of newsletters, flyers, and brochures.

Margie Paris of the Ministry Office in Elgin, Ill., shared in detail the "how" and "why" for all of the information that districts keep track of for licensed and ordained ministers.

Neil Fancher, retirement counselor for marketing services, gave the group an afternoon tour of the Hillcrest campus and the new Southwoods Lodge, followed by refreshments with the Hillcrest staff. The Hillcrest staff took care of the group's needs, ranging from a cane to help a sore knee, to a Brethren ice cream social. **—Joe Vecchio and Sandy Adams**

Joe Vecchio

Meeting in La Verne, Calif., the DAAS group included, *front row: Jeannette Patterson, Georgia Markey, Suzie Moss. Second row: Pat Hopkins, Linda Williams, Sandy Adams. Third row: Mary Ellen Theriault, June Peters, Dee Grindle, Margie Paris (Ministry Office). Back: Joe Vecchio, Rick Grindle*

Chanda Edwards

BVS Unit 238—This older adult unit of Brethren Volunteer Service participated in orientation at New Windsor, Md. *Work projects to which the volunteers are assigned are listed by their names. Front row: Sue Grubb (staff); Dorothy Haner (Gould Farm, Monterey, Mass.); Winifred Toledo (Community Mediation Center, Harrisonburg, Va.); Emily Larson (New Windsor Conference Center); Cleo Treadway (Church of the Brethren Washington Office). Back row: Alice Petry (guest leader); Larry Petry (guest leader); Lavonne Grubb (placement to be announced); Joan Campbell (Gould Farm); Jim Campbell (Gould Farm).*

MILESTONES

Three couples celebrate 60 years

Sixty years of marriage and a lifetime of friendship were celebrated recently by three couples in Iowa—all members of the Panther Creek Church of the Brethren in Adel. Friends since their childhood at Panther Creek, Leonard and Mable Snyder, Dale and Ruth Wicks, and Verle and Eva York stayed in the area to farm after their marriages in 1940 and have continually supported each other and their families.

Wed within eight days of each other (May 29, 31, and June 5, respectively), the three couples celebrated their 60th anniversaries with a triple open house at the church on June 11.

Not knowing a reception announcement in the newspaper would create a stir, Eva gave information about the open house to *The Des Moines Register*. After she relayed the details, a reporter called to set up an interview.

On May 29 the *Register* printed the story, entitled "180 years of marriage: 3 couples celebrate loyalty," and posted it on the newspaper's website. The next day the couples received a call from CBS television requesting interviews.

They were scheduled to air live on "The Early Show" Friday, June 2, but the story was postponed then eventually canceled due to scheduling conflicts. Later in the week, by invitation and expense of CBS, the friends gathered to spend dinner together at a restaurant in Des Moines.

After farming and raising children together for more than 45 years within a mile of each other, the Snyders, Wicks, and Yorks continue to live in the Adel area and attend church every Sunday. "The church and community have been the center of our lives," Eva said. **—Kendra Flory**

Couple marks 82 years of marriage

Harley and Sylvia Utz marked their 82nd wedding anniversary June 15. Residents of The Brethren's Home, Greenville, Ohio, both are 101 years old. They are longtime members of the Pitsburg Church of the Brethren, Arcanum, Ohio.

Son Emerson Utz of Arcanum said his mother is in good health and his father has suffered the aftereffects of a recent fall. Both say they cherish their wedding covenant, though Mrs. Utz sometimes complains jokingly that she lives with an "old man."

New Windsor stores planning changes

Changes are coming at the Brethren Service Center in rural New Windsor, Md., where the two stores on campus have recently announced new plans.

On Earth Peace Assembly said its Peace Place Bookstore and Resource Center, located in the lower level of Windsor Hall, would be closing as of Sept. 30. A release cited overall low sales volume and the highly competitive religious book and resource market as reasons for the decision.

SERRV International, meanwhile, has decided to move its gift shop in the lower level of the Old Main building to a smaller space in its administration building—still on the New Windsor campus—sometime next year. Overall sales for SERRV are up 31 percent this year, but sales at the center's 3,500-square-foot gift shop were declining for a 10th straight year, according to SERRV president Bob Chase.

"New Windsor does not fare well for retail space," said Stan Noffsinger, director of the Brethren Service Center. "It's not where people from the metropolitan areas are going to shop."

OEPA said the core mission of the Peace Place will be preserved through a new initiative called the "Peace Basket," offering peace resources to congregations and other groups on a lending basis. OEPA board chair Dale Brown said the decision is part of a continuing, major strategic planning process by the staff

The Peace Place
BOOKSTORE & RESOURCE CENTER

Walt Wiltschek

At the Ministry Summer Service orientation *are Beth Rhodes, left, of Roanoke, Va., interning this summer at York Center Church of the Brethren, Lombard, Ill.; Rochelle Hershey, center, of Ephrata, Pa., interning at Wilmington (Del.) Church of the Brethren; and Kendra Flory of McPherson, Kan., interning in the Brethren Press Communications Office, Elgin, Ill.*

Ministry Summer Service begins with a call

One by one, mentors and leaders in this year's Ministry Summer Service program shared how they had received their call to the ministry. Most of them never expected their path would lead there. A few even tried to head as far away from it as possible.

Now each one is helping a young adult explore that same call. The 12 college students in this year's program committed to spending nine weeks in a ministry setting—11 of them in congregations and one in the communications area of Brethren Press—following a week-long orientation in Richmond, Ind.

The program, now in its fifth summer, is a joint effort of the General Board's Youth/Young Adult and Ministry offices and Bethany Theological Seminary. Orientation included lessons on leadership, church polity, discerning a call, and other topics, hearing from a variety of guest speakers.

Interns also took and examined personality tests, had Bible study, toured the Bethany campus, and took turns leading worship. Mentors joined the interns for the final two and a half days, which culminated in a powerful worship service of blessing, anointing, and commissioning.

Bob Faus, former ministry consultant for the General Board, served as volunteer coordinator for the week. Chris Douglas of the Youth/Young Adult Office, Allen Hansell of the Ministry Office, and numerous Bethany staff members providing additional leadership.

"You had choices this summer," Hansell said to the interns. "You could have done any number of things, but you chose to be here, and the church thanks you for that. It gives me tremendous hope for the future. The church is blessed by having you."

Earle Fike, a former pastor and Bethany teacher, urged the interns to be open to the process of exploration, just as the mentors once were. "God does not expect persons to be fully prepared at the time of a call," he said. "God does expect people to use the creative gifts God has given them."

and board members, seeking to clarify OEPA's role in the denomination. He also said that the OEPA offices will remain in New Windsor, at least for now.

SERRV also plans to stay on the campus. Chase said SERRV has "an extremely strong commitment" to the center and is already talking about renewal of its lease, which is up next year.

"We are very pleased about being here," Chase said. "We just need to make sure we use our resources in the best way to carry out our mission. The mission doesn't change, but the way you carry it out over time does."

Noffsinger said he will be working to bring in new partners to fill the vacant spaces. He expects those to be offices rather than retail outlets. He said he hopes for a Church of the Brethren agency or another partner that shares similar values to join the New Windsor community.

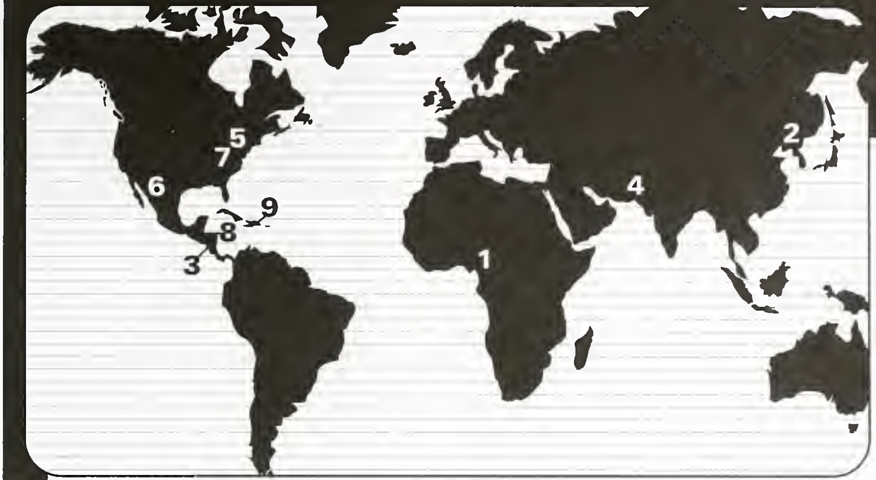
"This is a vibrant place with a lot to offer," Noffsinger said. "This is an opportunity for new ministry."

Peace Travel Team makes tour of camps

The 2000 Youth Peace Travel Team is crisscrossing the eastern half of the country this summer, serving for eight weeks at six Church of the Brethren camps and Annual Conference. Camps in Maryland, Virginia, Michigan, and Pennsylvania were on this year's schedule. The group held orientation at Camp Swatara in Bethel, Pa., before heading out.

Myra Martin-Adkins, Daniel Royer, Meghan Sheller, Peter Dobberstein, and Marshall Camden compose the team, which leads activities related to peace education, service, and other topics. Several agencies cosponsor the annual effort.

WORLDWATCH



1. **Nigeria.** An Emergency Disaster Fund grant of $20,500 will be used to help rebuild the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria's Badarwa church in Kaduna, burned during riots between Muslims and Christians, and for medical expenses and other costs for those affected by the riots.

2. **Korea.** North and South Korea, enemies for half a century, took steps toward peace after a historic summit in June. The two nations, split by the 38th parallel, promised to work toward reunification. Brethren Witness director David Radcliff called it "a remarkable turn of events."

3. **Guatemala.** Two new grants from the Global Food Crisis Fund will send aid to the Central American nation, with $10,000 going toward the building of wood-conserving stoves and water-storing cisterns and $5,000 toward a private school for poor children that is creating a "food forest."

4. **Afghanistan/Pakistan.** Another Emergency Disaster Fund grant, for $25,000, will help address the severe drought in central Asia, the worst since 1971. The money will go toward a larger appeal by Church World Service to provide food packages, water, and livestock fodder.

5. **New Windsor, Md.** Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 239 gathered at the Brethren Service Center June 11-July 1 for orientation. The 12 volunteers joined in numerous educational and service events before heading out to their projects.

6. **Tijuana, Mexico.** A committee reported that it is developing a working agreement between the Church of the Brethren General Board and the Compañeros en Ministerio program for mission in the border city following Campañeros severing of its relationship with Shalom Ministries.

7. **Washington, D.C.** Religious leaders and military officials joined for an interfaith worship service June 21 at the National Cathedral, calling for steps toward nuclear disarmament. They also issued a joint statement, with General Board executive director Judy Mills Reimer among those signing.

8. **Honduras.** In mid-June a Church of the Brethren Faith Expedition, with 15 people from eight districts, took part in reconstruction efforts following 1998's Hurricane Mitch. The group worked in the area of Las Lajas.

9. **Dominican Republic.** Two Church of the Brethren Youth/Young Adult Workcamps traveled to the Caribbean nation in June. These were a young adult workcamp June 2-10 and a senior high workcamp cosponsored by Brethren Revival Fellowship June 25-July 5.

BRETHRENSPEAK

Seeing what helping a person can do is really awesome....if you show the love of God through faith and actions, you can really see the difference in the people you help, and there will be a change in you, too.

***Laura Trausch** of Walbridge, Ohio, on her youth workcamp experience*

At the Young Adult Conference, *Jenny Palmer (Audubon, Pa.), Jill Deyarmin (Windber, Pa.), and Jonathan Dunmyer (Hooversville, Pa.) look for Gummi Bears in a bowl of chocolate pudding during a "Wacky Olympics" free-time event.*

Young adults meet, seek **common ground**

About 70 young adults and leaders gathered at Camp Harmony in Hooversville, Pa., Memorial Day weekend to learn, fellowship, and address the Young Adult Conference theme "Finding Common Ground."

A team of three Brethren "elders" joined keynote leader Matt Guynn to help the group explore feelings and have open dialogue on issues in the church. Worship also formed a central part of the conference, and numerous workshops were offered.

The Bittersweet Gospel Band provided an evening concert, and a variety show, "Wacky Olympics," recreation options, and informal conversation rounded out the weekend.

"We all came here seeking common ground," Guynn said at the closing. "Yet we can be diverse among that. That excites me and gives me hope."

Pennsylvania home hosts Forum 2000

More than 50 people from 13 Brethren retirement communities, Southern Pennsylvania District, Mennonite Health Services, and the Association of Brethren Caregivers gathered for the Fellowship of Brethren Homes' Forum 2000, held in mid-June. It was the fourth straight year for the event, held at The Brethren Home Community in New Oxford, Pa., this year.

ABC sponsored the event, which included networking sessions for home executives and other leaders, training for board members, and tours of three area retirement facilities. The location of the 2001 Forum is expected to be named soon.

Personnel changes

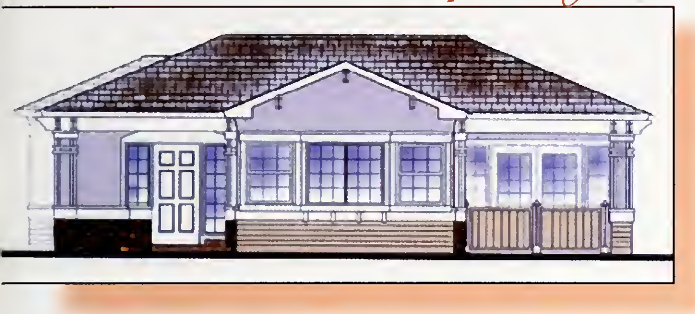
Jonathan A. Shively has been named the new coordinator of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, effective Sept. 1. He succeeds current coordinators Harriet and Ron Finney, who will continue to serve until Sept. 30.

Shively has been serving as pastor of the Pomona (Calif.) Fellowship Church of the Brethren since 1993. He is coordinator of Pacific Southwest District's Training in Ministry program and served as music coordinator for the 1997 Annual Conference.

Nancy Klemm, who has been serving as copy editor for Brethren Press, became associate editor, a salaried position, effective June 5.

Klemm began her employment with the Church of the Brethren General Board in 1985. She began as secretary for the People of the Covenant program and later worked with the hymnal project and as an editorial assistant.

You will love your new lifestyle at Hillcrest



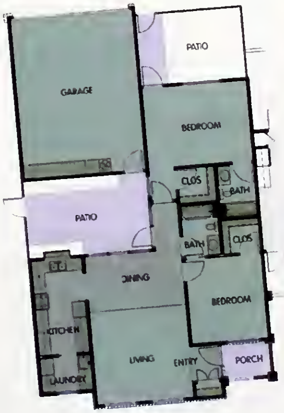
Finding the right continuing care retirement community for you depends on the choices you seek. Among the many choices, you want a retirement community that is accredited by the Continuing Care Accreditation Commission to enhance your decision.

Hillcrest offers you the security and assurance of accreditation in addition to all of the services and amenities available on campus. Our active lifestyle allows residents freedom from household chores, and provides ongoing connections to our surrounding community. Hillcrest provides distinct peace of mind for the future.

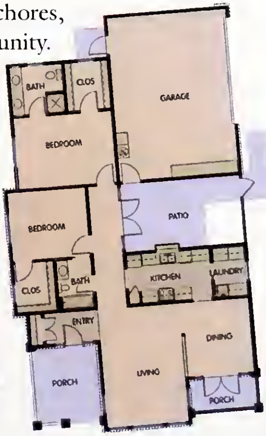
Our newest development, the Courtyard Homes, offers you homes with two bedrooms, two baths, a two-car garage, an appliance package and an enclosed courtyard within a range of 1200 to 1500 square feet. There are three large floor plans to select from, and three monthly fee service package options. These spacious homes are so well nestled into the surrounding community that it gives the appearance and feeling of living in a neighborhood setting.

Phase II of the Courtyard Homes is scheduled for development in the summer of 2000, pending approval from the Department of Social Services. The next 13 homes will be built in a series of phases.

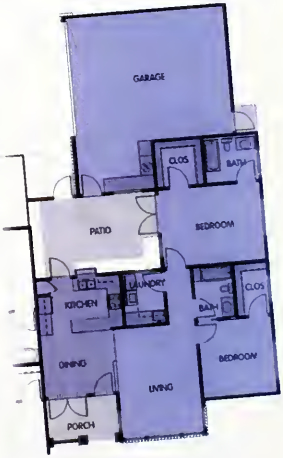
Make time to visit Hillcrest for one of our monthly events, or an individual tour, and see the possibilities for your future retirement lifestyle. Hillcrest is a successful, stable, Continuing Care Retirement Community that offers you many choices.


GARAGE
PATIO
BEDROOM
CLOS
BATH
PATIO
BATH
CLOS
DINING
BEDROOM
KITCHEN
LIVING
ENTRY
PORCH
LAUNDRY

PLAN A / APPROX. 1200 SQ. FT.


BATH
CLOS
GARAGE
BEDROOM
BEDROOM
PATIO
KITCHEN
LAUNDRY
CLOS
BATH
ENTRY
DINING
PORCH
LIVING
PORCH

PLAN B / APPROX. 1555 SQ. FT.


GARAGE
CLOS
BATH
PATIO
BEDROOM
KITCHEN
LAUNDRY
CLOS
BATH
DINING
BEDROOM
LIVING
PORCH

PLAN C / APPROX. 1190 SQ. FT.

DSS Continuing Care
Certificate #069
DSS #191501662

For further information, call
1-800-566-4636 (in CA)
or (909) 392-4360

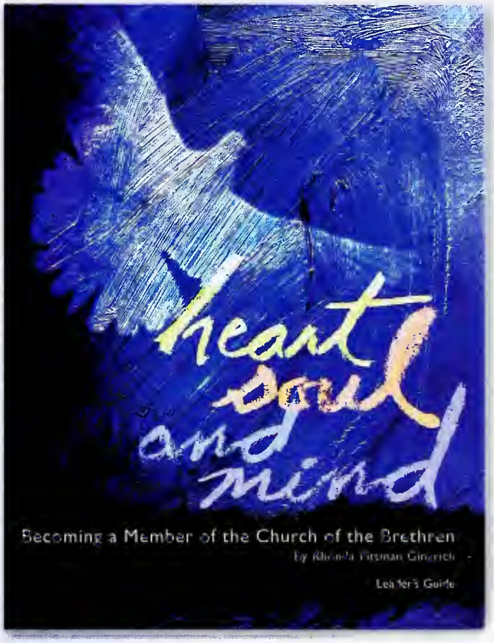
Visit our website:
www.seniorhousing.net/ad/hillcrestca

HILLCREST®
A RETIREMENT COMMUNITY RELATED TO THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

2705 Mt. View Drive • La Verne, CA 91750

"Teacher, which commandment is the greatest?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment."

Matthew 22:36-38


heart
soul
and
mind
Becoming a Member of the Church of the Brethren
by Rhonda Pittman Gingrich
Leader's Guide

Giving God your heart, soul, and mind is central to the decision to be baptized as a Christian and become a member of the Church of the Brethren. *Heart, Soul, and Mind* is an adaptable membership curriculum for congregations to use with youth and adults who are exploring a deeper commitment to Christian discipleship.

Four units of study explore what Brethren should know about the Bible, church history, living the faith, and church membership. The Leader's Guide (#9922, $24.95) includes reproducible handouts for students, ideas for a mentor program, and an apprenticeship program. The Membership Handbook for students (#9923, $9.95) contains readings, exercises, and journal starters, and is valuable as a keepsake and benchmark of faith development. A video (#9924, $19.95) featuring Brethren youth talking about faith is also available to supplement the curriculum.

Candidates for membership will be engaged —heart, soul, and mind—to love God, love their neighbor, and join in the community of faith.

Brethren Press
This day.

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712   fax 800-667-8188   e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

Class of 2000 Bethany graduates *include, first row: Elizabeth Bidgood Enders, Karen Cox, Janice Fairchild. Second row: Gregory Bidgood Enders, Dean Johnson, John A. Barr, Ken Miller-Rieman, Norman Wilson, Brent Driver, Patrick Starkey. Not pictured: J. Michael Schaadt-Patterson, Karla Hignite, Alan Tripp, Karin Davidson, Horace Derr*

Jim Chagares

Fifteen receive degrees in Bethany Class of 2000

Fifteen students graduated at a May 9 ceremony at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Ind. Nine received Master of Divinity degrees, four received Master of Arts in Theology degrees, and two received Certificates in Theological Studies.

Kenneth B. Smith, former president of Chicago Theological Seminary, spoke at the conferring of degrees ceremony, and General Board executive director Judy Mills Reimer spoke at an afternoon worship service held the same day at the Richmond, Ind., campus. Graduates' future plans include careers in pastoral ministry, children's and youth ministry, website marketing and development, and further graduate study.

Colorado wildfires affect Brethren

The wildfires burning in Colorado brought a scare to a junior high camp group at Camp Colorado in Sedalia. One of the largest fires in the state came just 10-12 miles west of the camp in mid-June before favorable weather conditions finally eliminated the danger.

The Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren in Littleton, Colo., stood ready to provide shelter for the group if evacuation became necessary, as some ash fell at the camp early in the week, and some activities had to be altered due to the smoke and uncertainty of the fire's direction.

Camp Colorado head trustee Lynn Clannin said that the cost of fighting the fire rose to $7 million, and 58 structures were burned along with 11,000 acres of trees. A Disaster Child Care team from Church of the Brethren Emergency Response/Service Ministries was summoned to an evacuation shelter at an area high school to assist with needs of uprooted families for several days.

For more information, please see http://www.cob-net.org/camp/colorado_news.htm.

Lynn Clannin

Forest prayer. *Junior high campers at Camp Colorado gathered in a circle to hear updates on nearby forest fires and to pray.*

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Aug. 10-12 Southern Plains District Conference, Nocona (Tex.) Church of the Brethren.

Aug. 13-18 On Earth Peace Assembly Peace Camp, Camp Mardela, Denton, Md.

Aug. 13-23 Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 240, Roxbury, Pa.

Aug. 18-20 Michigan District Conference, Wesleyan Campgrounds, Hastings

Aug. 26 Area 1 (Northeast) Urban Ministry Celebration and Conference, Harrisburg (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren

Sept. 8-9 South/Central Indiana District Conference, Camp Alexander Mack, Milford

Sept. 8-10 Missouri and Arkansas District Conference, Windemere Conference Center, Roach, Mo.

Sept. 10 Bethany Emphasis Sunday

Sept. 11-15 National Older Adult Conference, Lake Junaluska, N.C.

Raves for the Jubilee tou

On the road again with Sunday school materials

by Walt Wiltschek

> "Rosella was very articulate, energetic, and had a true love for the Lord and for children. She knew the importance of instilling good, sound Christian nurture in the hearts of young children."

"Captivating."

"Bubbly."

"I just can't say enough."

It sounds like the critics' reviews often seen in movie ads. These reviews, however, were directed toward Rosella Wiens Regier, who is wrapping up a year-long tour to promote the Jubilee Sunday school curriculum and Christian education in general.

Regier likely won't win an Oscar for her efforts, but she has won the hearts of Christian educators and others across the denomination.

"She was very articulate, energetic, and had a true love for the Lord and for children," said Roy McVey, pastor of the Collinsville (Va.) congregation where Regier did a workshop in May. "She knew the importance of instilling good, sound Christian nurture in the hearts of young children."

McVey said he wished more than the 15 who came could have attended, and he would love to have Regier back for another presentation. He especially praised her way of drawing people out and involving them.

Regier did manage to reach many people during her tour, provided as a free resource to the church by Brethren Press, with about 1,200 participants in 14 districts and approximately 115 hours of events. Nearly 100 people attended individual workshops in Ohio and North Carolina, and she spoke to even larger crowds when events were combined with worship and Sunday school.

Destinations ranged from California to Pennsylvania to Florida, with many stops in between. Even obstacles like flat tires and laryngitis proved unable to stop her.

"She came here very ill, and we had terrible rains and flooding," said Linda Gerber, Christian education coordinator for Southern Pennsylvania District. "It was like the mail service, neither illness nor rain nor anything could deter her workshop...And there was just a genuine love and joy we felt all the way through."

APOCALYPS WHEN?

Cathy Fulcher, Betty Franklin, and Donna Luther *from the Jones Chapel congregation (Martinsville, Va.) look at Generation Why resources during a session in Collinsville, Va.*

Regier, a Mennonite from Newton, Kan., said she never likes to miss an opportunity to talk about her favorite subject. She called the invitation by Brethren Press director Wendy McFadden to do the tour "a God-send." Regier retired from working with the Jubilee curriculum project in January 1999 and was itching for something to do.

It didn't take long for her to get her wish. A letter to congregations and districts quickly generated a full itinerary for her.

"It was amazing, just amazing. It's been a great thing," said Regier, the enthusiasm that others praised quite evident in her voice. "I wouldn't trade it for anything. I thought, 'What if I'd retired into nothing?' The issues I love and have a passion for was a perfect match, an absolute gift when Wendy asked me to do this. To be 65 and have this opportunity was a taste of heaven."

She threw herself into it and did it cre-

Julie Hostetter

Rosella Wiens Regier and Joan Barker from Collinsville (Va.) Church of the Brethren *discuss Joan's participation in the event as part of a continuing education requirement.*

"The way my life has gone, it's like God has a surprise around every corner. There's always something new and good that emerges, and that's true for the church as well."

atively. Those who heard her praised the drama and creative devotions she arranged, her storytelling ability, and her ability to readily connect with people—both adults and children.

They also said that she obviously knew her material and expressed that knowledge clearly and well, making her a good ambassador for the product.

"We got so much out of it," said McPherson (Kan.) Church of the Brethren Christian education director Jan Diaz, who became hooked on Jubilee while working on a new church start in Louisiana. "What was nice was her way of showing us things and using stories . . . I could go on and on."

That said, it doesn't mean that everything is rosy when it comes to Christian education in the Church of the Brethren. Several people said that education in the church seems to be getting less and less emphasis and attention overall, with smaller amounts of resources going toward it. There often is no easy place to turn to for advice or ideas.

Even the Church of the Brethren Association of Christian Educators has struggled to retain its mission since being separated from the General Board during redesign in the 1990s, losing funding and organizational support.

"When we lose Christian education, we're losing a major piece of growing churches," Gerber said. "It's not just Sunday morning; it's everything in the teaching ministry of the church. If we don't give the right support to that, we won't keep people."

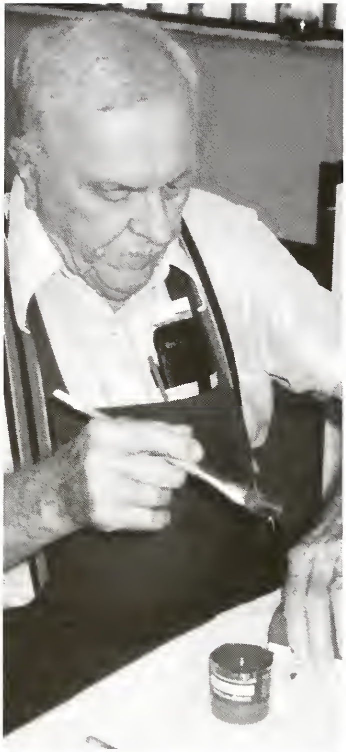
Regier acknowledged that Christian educators often work out of the spotlight but urged them to look for the small blessings that come through their ministry each week. She also encouraged others to give them a "pat on the back" and let them know they're appreciated.

As for herself, Regier isn't sure what lies ahead. She joked that she's always wanted to be a florist, but for now speeches, three grandchildren, and work that she's doing with a support group—plus a few lingering assignments on the Jubilee tour—are keeping her busy. Whatever comes next, she knows it will be something enjoyable.

"The way my life has gone, it's like God has a surprise around every corner," she said. "There's always something new and good that emerges, and that's true for the church as well."

Walt Wiltschek is manager of news services for the Church of the Brethren General Board.

This special section of articles on Church of the Brethren homes was prepared by the Association of Brethren Caregivers in cooperation with Messenger. Primary editors for the project were ABC staff members Roger Golden, coordinator of shared services, and Mary Dulabaum, director of communication.



Napoleon Lemieux puts some finishing touches *on his project at Palms of Sebring's wood craft workshop.*

Daisy McCleer talks to middle school students *during an intergenerational event at Peter Becker Community.*

THE LOVE CONNECTION

Why there are Brethren homes

by Tavia Ervin

I am the chaplain at Pleasant Hill Village, the Church of the Brethren nursing home at Girard, Ill. The people I serve are old and weak and need assistance with life's basic activities. They possess rich personal histories, many talents, wisdom, and a sense of humor. They are women and men with shortcomings, regrets, and fears. Some have great faith and compassion, while others are fearful and self-absorbed. In short, in most ways, they are just like you and me. I invite you to read about them in the words that follow, not with sadness or dread, but in gratitude for the long lives they have led and in awe at God's call to all of us to serve them in our Brethren Homes.

She never misses Friday devotions, so when her usual front row seat was empty one week I went to find her as soon as we were finished. "I missed you," I said simply as I stood in her doorway and she smiled. I count on seeing that smile as part of my day. It's a silent "amen" to my ministry here, even when I doubt the worth of my presence in the building. She does the same for others, both residents and staff, by gifting them with a word of encouragement at every turn. Her faith literally shines from her face.

"I'm sorry I couldn't be with you this morning. This foot of mine is giving me such trouble and they told me to sit with it propped up. I'm afraid I fell asleep here in my chair," she explained. We talked for a long time and she told me about her days as a missionary in the Philippines. "You know," she said, "I'm not sure why God keeps me here in this world anymore. I feel like I've done everything I can do here. I really am ready to die." Who can say why God chooses to keep us in this world when we ourselves find it difficult to see what purpose we may have here? I did not know what to say to her. It was not until later that evening as I was thinking of our conversation and about our friendship that I knew at least part of the answer. I couldn't wait to see her on Monday.

"I've been thinking about what you said yesterday and I think I understand why you are here!" I blurted out after we had greeted each other on Monday morning. She laughed. I went on, "It's your ministry. With your gift of encouragement you help me to minister here. You help so many people to see that each day holds something good in it because your faith tells you it is so."

She smiled that smile and patted my hand. "Thank you, dear." We spent our time together talking and we prayed. In that time together we helped one another find the courage of faith that comes when God's people are simply there for one another.

We all minister here in unique, individual ways. Many days through my office door I can hear one of our residents calling out, "Help." I go to sit with him. "What can I do for you?" I ask him, but very seldom is he able to name anything specific that is troubling him. He curses at me and at anyone else walking by and each time he apologizes to me.

He suffers from damage to his brain from a series of strokes, and the normal inhibitions that keep our behavior in check do not function for him. One of his former neighbors works here at the home and tells stories of his kindness and friendly spirit when she knew him as a child. Here he is restless and uncomfortable as he sits in his wheelchair and he is frustrated because he cannot articulate any of those feelings to me; his language abilities are diminished. "Stay with me," he says, and pats my hand. I do and he curses at me again, and then pats my hand and apologizes. Then he looks into my face and says, "I love you."

"I love you too," I say, and tears come to my eyes. His words humble me and lift me up at the same time. There is healing here in the way that love can connect us, in spite of the boundaries that disability and sickness would put in our way. We sit together quietly after that, and when he is feeling better I leave him to visit with other residents.

At Pleasant Hill Village I care for the spiritual needs of the residents, but something else happens along the way. The residents care for my spirit as well. We become part of one another and in turn we are a part of the Body of Jesus Christ. And that is as it should be because our ministry in the homes is the same as that of our denomination: Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

That's why the homes are among nine ministries that come under the aegis of the Association of Brethren Caregivers. It is not a ministry of the 24 separate Brethren homes alone, but of the Church of the Brethren as a whole. Ministering in these homes is to walk with women and men through a stage in their development as human beings that can be frightening, lonely, painful, and frustrating. Our ministry can make it one of fellowship, security, and spiritual growth instead.

Ministering in long-term care means embodying God's love for people by providing the basics of daily living, including nutritious food, secure housing, good health care, dignified surroundings, and spiritual comfort.

These needs are essentially no different than those of any of us, but our elders' ability to see to those needs by themselves is diminished. The ministry we have undertaken as the Church of the Brethren honors Jesus by caring for those members of God's family who are in need of our special attention.

Over the past few decades, the ministry of the homes has grown as the homes' physical facilities have expanded to include upscale retirement communities and modernized long-term care facilities. The scope of our ministry in the decades to come depends on how deeply we are willing to challenge ourselves as the church. Continued ministry to the elderly who cannot afford basic housing and health care, and to those elders with mental and emotional illness whose care is difficult and specialized will be challenging and will require serious commitment from all of us in our districts and as a denomination.

How will we respond to the call?

"I love you," He said.

"I love you too."

Tavia Ervin, of Sherman, Ill., is a licensed Church of the Brethren minister and is chaplain at Pleasant Hill Village.

BRETHREN HOMES DIRECTORY

Brethren Village, 3001 Lititz Pike, Lancaster PA 17606
Lebanon Valley Brethren Home, 1200 Grubb St., Palmyra PA 17078
Peter Becker Community, 800 Maple Ave., Harleysville PA 19438
The Palms Estates, P.O. Box 364, Lorida FL 33857
The Palms of Sebring, 725 S. Pine St., Sebring FL 33870
Pinecrest Community, 414 S. Wesley Ave., Mt. Morris IL 61054
Pleasant Hill Village, 1010 W. North St., Girard IL 62640
Timbercrest Retirement Community, 2201 East St., North Manchester IN 46962
Fahrney-Keedy Memorial Home, 8507 Mapleville Rd., Boonsboro MD 21713
Spurgeon Manor, 1204 Linden St., Dallas Center IA 50063
Good Shepherd Home, 725 Columbus Ave., Fostoria OH 44830
West View Manor, 1715 Mechanicsburg Rd., Wooster OH 44691
Brethren Retirement Community, 750 Chestnut St., Greenville OH 45331
Garden Terrace, 500 N. Emerson Ave., Wenatchee WA 98801
Northaven Retirement Residence, 11045 8th Ave., Seattle WA 98125
Brethren Hillcrest Homes, 2705 Mountain View Dr., La Verne CA 91750
Casa De Modesto, 1745 Eldena Way, Modesto CA 95350
Long Beach Brethren Manor, 3333 Pacific Pl., Long Beach CA 90806
Morrisons Cove Home, 429 S. Market St., Martinsburg PA 16662
The Brethren Home Community, 2990 Carlisle Pike, New Oxford PA 17350
Church of the Brethren Home, 1005 Hoffman Ave., Windber PA 15963
Bridgewater Retirement Community, 302 N. 2nd St., Bridgewater VA 22812
John M. Reed Home, 124 John Reed Home Rd., Limestone TN 37681
The Cedars, 1021 Cedars Dr., McPherson KS 67460

NURTURING THE MINISTRY OF BRETHREN HOMES

Is your church "homeless"? Get involved.

by **Edie Kirk**

On a rainy Saturday this spring, my husband and I visited a local nursery looking for a bush to plant beside the garage. As we walked among the potted bushes, I spotted the rhododendrons. I remembered the beautiful "rhodies" my father raised at our home in Connecticut, and wondered how well they would grow in Ohio. I asked one of the nursery staff if rhododendrons grow well in Ohio, and she answered, "It depends."

She went on to say they would need proper moisture, rich soil, protection from harsh weather, the right amount of sun, and loving attention. Some of the needs I could provide, and others were beyond my control.

There is a corollary between the bloom or doom of growing rhododendrons in Ohio and the "love 'em or leave 'em" relationship of Church of the Brethren congregations with Brethren homes and retirement communities. In both situations, success depends on nurturing from many sources, with an understanding that some of the nurturing and connectedness is within our control, and some is beyond our control.

Delbert and Louise Blickenstaff *are residents of The Brethren Retirement Community in Greenville, Ohio.*

Historically, the birth of a Brethren home was often the decision of one district, as was the case with the opening of Honey Creek Home in the early 1880s. Founded by Southern Indiana District as a home for orphans and the elderly, Honey Creek Home was built near Sulphur Springs, Ind.

Brethren homes also came to life as the result of one determined individual, as was the case with Levi Miller and the founding of the home in Mexico, Ind., recognized today as Timbercrest in North Manchester, Ind. In the years since the opening of Honey Creek home, 31 Brethren homes were established to meet the needs of children and aging adults.

Over the past 50 years, needs have changed and services for both children and the elderly are now available through a growing number of private and local, state, and federal agencies and organizations. Today, 24 Brethren homes continue to serve more than 7,000 residents throughout the United States.

Asking if Brethren homes have been forgotten by Church of the Brethren congregations brings a variety of responses. Pastor Fred Bernhard of the Oakland Church of the Brethren in Gettysburg, Ohio, answers the question passionately. "Seventeen members of the Oakland congregation are residents at the Brethren's Home in Greenville (Ohio), and we give a significant amount from our budget to the home. In addition, members of the Oakland congregation give countless hours every week in service to this home. When that kind of human investment is realized, how can it be a forgotten ministry?"

For many congregations with no existing connection to the homes no residents in the Brethren home, no volunteers giving time and service, no nurturing from Brethren the question may be different. For these congregations, the question may be, What benefit is there for our congregation to be connected to a Brethren home?

"Leaders within Brethren homes, such as the president, board members, auxiliary leadership, and key staff, should take a lead in educating and reminding members of congregations that the mission, vision, and ministry of Brethren homes is and always has been an important ministry of the church," comments Robert Cain, president and CEO of Brethren Retirement Community in Greenville, Ohio.

Leaders who develop and nurture relationships with congregations and help church members understand the challenges facing retired adults, today and in the future, provide important information, regardless of the age of the member.

"Aging" is "ageless" in terms of who it affects. Every child, teenager, adult, and older adult has an older adult he or she loves. Being a part of assuring a safe and secure future for our loved ones is a mission and ministry every person can relate to and take part in.

Kay Jones, director of public relations at The Brethren Home Community in New Oxford, Pa., believes the ministry of Church of the Brethren congregations and The Brethren Home Community is alive and well.

"The Brethren Home Community is a ministry of the Southern Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren, and certainly not forgotten by our district," Jones comments. As proof of the relationship, She lists the district's financial donations, the willingness of congregation members to volunteer, the placement of key persons in all district churches to support the home's auxiliary, and invitations she receives to speak about the home to Sunday school classes, church boards, and from the pulpit.

"The Brethren Home Community's Foundation is our parent organization and annually presents a report to the district at its conference. In addition, Joe Detrick, district executive, is an active member of our advancement committee and attends our board meetings," Jones adds. "We are currently exploring our 92-year heritage with the help of several members of the Huntsdale Church of the Brethren. The original Old Folks Home was established by the district in 1908 in Huntsdale, Pa."

Auxiliary leaders, key workers, and other volunteers nurture and strengthen relationships between churches and Brethren homes. Key workers seem to easily bridge the transition from ministering to the elderly in the church family to ministering to the elderly residing in a Brethren home. These volunteers recognize that ministering with older adults is a mission of the Church of the Brethren and needs to be nurtured in both the church family and in the Brethren home in their district or area.

Jerry Walker of Peter Becker Community shows his "voice box" *to a middle school student during an intergenerational event.*

District executives, some of whom serve Brethren homes in volunteer leadership roles, can strengthen the relationship between congregations and the area Brethren home. Reinforcing the commitment of the church to minister with the elderly, district executives can help pastors and congregations recognize opportunities to work with homes to enhance the mission of service to the elderly.

Chaplains who are staff members in Brethren homes and members of Brethren congregations also nurture the relationship between the congregation and the Brethren home. Chaplains have the opportunity to share news from members of the church back to residents of the home, and also

Clowning around at Casa de Modesto. *Alma Satterlee gets dressed up for the 1999 Halloween Party.*

Virginia Crim paints watercolor landscapes *at Brethren Retirement Community in Greenville, Ohio.*

share news of the home with the congregation.

Occasionally, relationships weaken because people misunderstand or have incorrect information. If we understood that rhododendrons never needed to be watered, they would not survive. The relationship between a congregation and a home can be damaged or destroyed if people believe that Brethren homes have become "big business" and no longer need the nurturing relationship of Church of the Brethren congregations.

Broken relationships can occur when financial issues are not viewed within a larger context. Some Brethren homes have budgets of $10 million or more, numbers that may seem overwhelming to an individual or congregation. Yet the schools our children attend and the hospitals we depend upon have budgets this high and higher. In the context of providing quality education and adequate health care, these figures are not so overwhelming that we turn our backs on them. Brethren homes are no different, regardless of the size of the budgets. They still need nurturing to continue the mission of service to older adults.

The need for strengthened relationships between congregations and Brethren homes is more important today than it has been for many years. Today Brethren homes, like other providers of health services, face dramatic increases in the cost of providing care to residents. There are three reasons for this increase in costs: First, reimbursement paid to nursing homes for Medicaid and Medicare services continues to lag behind the cost of providing the services; second, liability insurance costs have increased drastically; and third, qualified and caring staff continue to be difficult to recruit and retain as growth in industry jobs continues.

Claude Moyer, plant operations employee at Peter Becker Community, *drives the tractor for an October hayride.*

Perhaps just as compelling a reason for connections between congregations and Brethren homes is cited in the 1972 report of the Annual Conference Study Committee on Health and Welfare Concerns (commissioned by the 1970 Annual Conference):

"The institutionalization of persons, even in adequate facilities, means isolation from family and friends and fosters feelings in the residents of dehumanization and loneliness. Congregations need to maintain interest in and fellowship with members who are separated from their local church and restricted to a . . . geriatric center. The congregation which breaks fellowship with a member who is removed from the community because of physical or emotional crisis, aging... is not fulfilling its Christian commitment to those in need."

The report recommends that a home representative be designated in each congregation to coordinate programs designed to "meet the spiritual, educational, recreational, emotional, and social needs of older persons on the local and district levels. Even when older people are cared for in institutional homes, they should remain related to their local congregations, and their 'home' congregations should keep actively related to them."

Pastors, district executives, CEOs and administrators, deacons, auxiliary workers, and residents who also are members of Church of the Brethren congregations can all help provide proper moisture, rich and fertile soil, warmth and caring. However, each congregation will make the decision whether or not to nurture a relationship with the Brethren home in their area. Whatever that decision, it is important to realize that the relationship does need to be nurtured from many sources. And when asked what it takes to nurture and grow this relationship, the best answer is "it depends on us."

Edie Kirk is vice president of marketing and development, Brethren Retirement Community, and vice president of Mill Ridge Village, Union, Ohio.

A NEW VISION FOR SENIOR SERVICES

by Roger Golden

As with many industries, the service of providing long-term care is seeing an evolutionary shift in the way it conducts business. The only constant element is summed up in one word "change."

Change is so constant, in fact, that Brethren-affiliated retirement homes and communities have pooled their resources to create a new program to seek out common solutions and faith-based responses to events and trends.

In recent years, long-term care providers have experienced new trends, such as expanded regulatory mandates, healthcare reform issues, aggressive growth in the for-profit sector, changing consumer patterns, reimbursement method changes, and greater need for subacute/chronic care services. To cope with these changes, retirement facilities are experiencing a call for strong leadership and affiliations.

Alongside these industry changes are the day-to-day internal demands of providing the highest quality of care for residents. This is a crucial time for Brethren homes to come together. For many homes, the move to collaborate more fully may enable them to survive in an increasingly complex and competitive environment.

The Fellowship of Brethren Homes, a ministry of the Association of Brethren Caregivers, has a long history of affiliation and collaboration, which supports Brethren facilities as they carry out their ministries with older adults. By becoming members of the Fellowship, the retirement facilities establish an important link to the larger church and are eligible to partake of member services such as the development of the new shared services program. This multilevel program was created to provide a faith-based approach to services, a facet of caregiving that no other association or alliance provides.

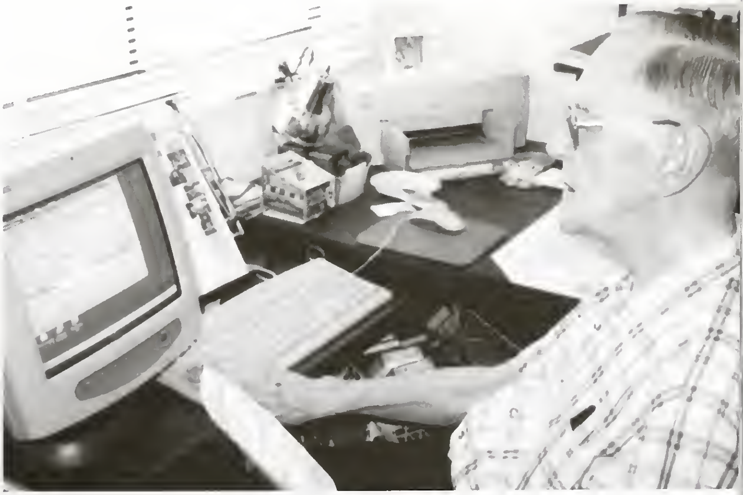
The mission statement of the Shared Services proposal summarizes the direction of the new Fellowship of Brethren Homes program: "By joining together in shared services, the Brethren homes will:

- strengthen their common mission and values,
- provide proactive programs and services that meet the needs of their rapidly changing industry, and
- reaffirm their faith-based ministries.

Developing the shared services program

In 1998, the steering committee of the Fellowship of Brethren Homes created a Collaboration Core Group of representatives from member facilities to begin formulating a proposal for new programs and services. The Collaboration Core Group and ABC staff conducted on-site visits, participated in Forums on Collaboration, and held phone interviews and meetings as a process for envisioning a new era of working together through a shared services program. Their vision was to provide resources for a group of geographically diverse facilities with a common mission of serving the senior population of the Church of the Brethren and their local communities.

After testing the new program and services, the shared services proposal was presented to Fellowship members at a forum of retirement home administrators, staff, and board members in August 1999. During the fall, facilities contemplated joining the shared services program at different levels—partners, associates, or members—which



John T. Fike enjoys a variety of volunteer *duties on his computer at The Palms of Sebring.*

Forest Jobe and Morton Brann *enjoy a friendly game of pool at The Palms of Sebring Activities Center.*

would allow facilities to select the level of services they receive according to the level of financial commitment they made to the program. Of the 24 Brethren-affiliated homes, nine joined the plan as partners, seven as associates, and eight as members.

During the developmental and testing process, priorities for needed services surfaced and resurfaced. The top priorities are leadership development, board training and development, corporate compliance, technology services, and Brethren values. Through staff work and newly created volunteer committees, these areas are being considered and programs are being developed to meet the needs of the membership.

Another stepping stone in providing services came in April this year, when the Association of Brethren Caregivers announced becoming co-owners of a High Performance Board Series with Mennonite Health Services of Goshen, Ind. This board training resource is available to the members of both agencies, other agencies within the Church of the Brethren and Mennonite churches, and other not-for-profit organizations.

Bent on interconnections

Over the years, the Fellowship of Brethren Homes has provided many opportunities for Brethren-affiliated homes to interact and connect. In 1997, the Fellowship hosted a forum on Collaboration to bring church leaders and homes administrators and staff together to discuss common concerns and envision a new way of working together.

Since that time, the Fellowship has hosted a forum each year. This year's forum was held June 16-18 at New Oxford, Pa. The High Performance Board Series was highlighted at the Forum with board members being trained in "The Basics-Roles and Responsibilities," one of the modules of the series.

The Fellowship also relates to other ecumenical groups to work on issues of leadership development, board training, and alliance building. Results from these affiliations often take place behind the scenes. These interdependent and ecumenical relationships represent the value and necessity of connecting with one another.

Fellowship of Brethren Homes members, and their districts, have served older adults and their communities for more than 100 years with autonomy and independence. Each of these facilities felt a strong calling and provided effective caring ministries. These services were recognized several years ago when a review of reports prepared by the Health Care Financing Administration rated Church of the Brethren homes third among 43 for-profit and not-for-profit long-term care providers.

The next 100 years will call for continued excellence in Brethren-affiliated retirement homes, along with an interdependence that will reflect vision, renew the call, and strengthen the common mission. The 7,000-plus residents of Brethren-affiliated facilities live daily in the rich legacy of the call, the future vision of current leadership, and the common mission of the Fellowship of Brethren Homes. M.

Norman and Margaret Drew *are residents of The Brethren Retirement Community in Greenville, Ohio.*

Roger Golden of Elgin, Ill., is coordinator for shared services on the staff of the Association of Brethren Caregivers.

STILL GROWING AT BRETHREN VILLAGE

by Franklin K. Cassel

My wife and I moved to Brethren Village of Lancaster, Pa., well before retirement age, knowing that when and if something happened to either of us, we would get the care we needed and avoid the risk of not being able to enter the facility when retirement time came. Fortunately, we were here when Peggy developed Alzheimer's disease. She needed home health care and later moved into the Health Care Center.

Many things come to my mind as I reflect on how my needs are being met at Brethren Village. Peggy is gone, since July 1997, after almost six years in the nursing center. During that time I resided in a cottage at Brethren Village and was able to help the nurses and aides give her the good care and love she needed.

Living alone in our cottage has not been bad, as I have felt that life has real meaning and Brethren Village has provided all I need to achieve my goals.

My spiritual life and needs are anchored still n the Lititz Church of the Brethren, but nicely supplemented by the fine spiritual life program provided by the retirement facility. Each day morning devotions, transmitted through the television, provide nspiration and opportunity for residents to pray for one another. Many opportunities for Bible study are available for those who have the time and interest. The weekly chapel service is an uplift for those who attend or watch it through the television.

Small group associations are available for resdents to foster greater community spirit and provide opportunities to get better acquainted. All sorts of activities are available for exercise, fun, fellowship, and life enrichment. Many people volunteer and help to make Brethren Village be a compassionate, caring community.

For myself, I have used the land at my cottage and a large garden space provided by the Village to grow flowers to share with others and vegetables, berries, and fruit for my kitchen. My daily food bill for 1997 was only $2.17. Busy in my garden, I do not need to participate in the exercise activities.

Since Peggy died, I have no trouble keeping busy helping other caregivers deal with Alzheimer's. I have written a little book and had two videos produced about what I have learned about Alzheimer's. I am sharing this information far and wide on the Internet. Also, I am supporting the Caregivers Army in its campaign to petition Congress to appropriate $500 million each year to Alzheimer's research until a cure is found.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to live in a church-related retirement community where all of my needs will be met and where I can continue to be in mission helping others. I can relax here knowing that no matter what happens to me, I am in good hands and will be cared for with compassion. M.

Franklin Cassel's Internet ministry to Alzheimer caregivers was featured in the September 1999 MESSENGER. He may be reached at fkcassel@mciworld.com.

The interior of Fieldcrest Cottage at Brethren Village. *The cottages feature two bedrooms, two baths, living and dining areas, eat-in kitchen, laundry room, sunroom, and attached garage.*

The indoor pool at The Brethren Village *is the place for aquacize, exercise, therapy, and water volleyball.*

FLOWER POWER

Peter Becker Community draws thousands to its annual bloomfest

by M. Therese Page

Every spring, residents of Peter Becker Community host an annual Flower Show, which typically draws 8,000 visitors to the Harleysville, Pa., facility. This weekend event offers many things to everyone involved—opportunities to contribute time and talents, to create something beautiful, and to interact and connect with people normally absent from the halls and walkways of the home.

A 1930 John Deere tractor owned by resident Ed Schmell *was driven into the building to sit in a field display surrounded by residents' plants.*

"Charlotte's Web" was the theme of this year's show, held March 17 and 18. The show evoked memories of the book by E.B. White by including details and little touches from the book in the display. Visitors saw the farm where Wilbur lives and where Charlotte spins her magic web. The barn and tractor, toolshed and farmhouse, with its ever-present laundry drying on the line, were just a few of the show's splendors. A kaleidoscope of flowers surrounded Wilbur in his pigsty, the sheep built by the activity department, and the country fair. Young and old alike enjoyed a scavenger hunt to find the details of the book hidden throughout the 3,000-square foot display located in the home's multipurpose room.

Linda Landis shows 104-year-old Nancy Mason *a plant at the Flower Show. Linda Landis works in the activity department at Peter Becker Community.*

To reach out to the community, part of the flower show includes hosting several competitions and inviting entries from older adults living in the surrounding area. Senior Activity Center artists entered paintings of farm scenes for the art competition.

Community members who are over 60 years of age were invited to participate in an essay contest entitled "Perspective on Farm Life." In it they describe what they remember about the farm, such as where they grew up, bought produce, worked, or visited. Residents of area retirement homes were encouraged to enter a special competition for container gardens. To round out the display area, several area businesses provided services and plants.

Guests attending an evening fund-raiser for the Peter Becker Community were able to preview the gardens and stroll through the farmyard viewing the animals and flowers.

The flower show also raises funds for the Peter Becker Community Auxiliary. Throughout the weekend, $12,340 was raised from donations and the sales of items donated by local merchants, artists, Peter Becker Community crafters, woodworkers, and a stamp club. Quality bedding plants and house plants also were available for purchase. From proceeds of this event, the auxiliary is able to donate to the home's benevolent fund and to purchase large gifts for the facility.

The residents of Peter Becker Community are the backbone of the show's success, spending countless hours painting backdrops, constructing displays, and caring for the plants that they entered into a competition. There is a project available for everyone at every skill level if they choose to participate. Many residents help construct and paint the three-dimensional displays.

The whole community is involved, knowing that this is a time for fellowship with people of all ages and all areas. M.

M. Therese Page is community relations coordinator for the Peter Becker Community.

BACK TO WORK IN INDIA

A united church was supposed to be the legacy of Brethren missions. But now there is division and distrust. **Can the mother church help once again?**

by Fletcher Farrar

The ink was barely dry on the minutes of Annual Conference in July 1998 when a letter arrived in Elgin, Ill., from Gujarat, India. Church leaders here weren't yet sure how they would implement the "World Mission Philosophy and Global Church Mission Structure" paper that had just been approved. But the letter from India was sure and eager: "This letter is our formal request to the Mission and Ministries Planning Council for recognition of the Church of the Brethren in India as a sister Church in the globalization program of the Church of the Brethren."

The letter explained that Emmanuel P. Bhagat, a member of the executive committee of the church in India, had been present at the Annual Conference in Orlando, Fla., and had brought back the news that approval of the global church paper "opens the way for us to become a partner with the global Church of the Brethren."

The way had begun to open a year before, when Merv Keeney took over as the new director of the General Board's Global Mission Partnerships office following General Board staff redesign. He decided to take a new stab at achieving reconciliation between the two quarreling churches that had descended from Church of the Brethren missions in India. In June 1998 he assembled an India Advisory Group, which included

CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA
INAUGURATION
WELCOME

Brethren Historical Library and Archives

The inauguration of the Church of North India was welcomed by the Church of the Brethren in the US. *Some of the bishops of the church pose for a picture in 1970.*

> "If we give official recognition to the breakaway group, we break the covenant with the Church of North India."
>
> –H. Lamar Gibble

former India missionaries Glen Campbell and Wendell Flory, General Board member Wayne Judd, LaVon Rupel, former chair of the World Ministries Commission, and Judy Keyser, treasurer. That group recommended going ahead with new efforts to make peace.

"We seek to release the energies and resources that have been heretofore unavailable for building God's church in India," he later explained to the General Board. Political conditions in India, with Christians facing persecution from a fervent Hindu nationalist movement, might motivate Indian Christians to put away their differences. New leaders, who might be open to fresh approaches, were emerging in both churches. Another factor motivating a new India effort, Keeney explained, was "the availability of a staff person of Indian ethnicity, Shantilal P. Bhagat, who could work at these issues in a different way. . . ."

Bhagat, longtime General Board staff member who now works as a volunteer consultant, had been assigned to India matters as the General Board's Asia representative from 1974 to 1977. But he had not been involved officially in India again until 20 years later, when Keeney asked Bhagat to become his adviser. "I asked him to bring me recommendations," Keeney said.

One of Bhagat's first recommendations, adopted by the General Board during a closed session June 29 last year, was to authorize the General Board staff to appoint new trustees to the trusts that oversee millions of dollars wort of former mission property. The board was tol the action was urgent because the two remainin active trustees on the principle trust were old, an if one of them died the property would be take over by the government. Following the boar action, the staff appointed property trustees recommended by the group that calls itself the Churc of the Brethren in India.

This was sure to please Emmanuel Bhagat, th trust's unpaid but influential administrator, wh is known as Emu. For years he has been the unofficial leader of the group that is sometimes calle the "separated Brethren," seeking recognition b the US church and control of the disputed property. He is also the brother of Shantilal Bhagat.

The General Board's action also rescinded 1991 board action that had been intended to transfer to the Church of North India the authority t name the property trustees. Putting the propert trust clearly in the hands of its rival infuriate leaders of the Church of North India when the found out about it weeks later. "We are now convinced," a CNI official wrote to Keeney las September, "that the Church of the Brethren no only believes in dividing the church but also supports activities that are contrary to the interest of the Church of North India."

It was with great hope and fanfare that th former Church of the Brethren missio churches in India united with five other denominations to form the Church of North India i 1970. Togetherness offered the best chance fo survival and growth in a nation where Christian comprise only two percent of the population.

S. Loren Bowman, then general secretary o the Church of the Brethren General Board in th US, was at the opening ceremonies in Nagpur 3 years ago, along with General Board staff members Shantilal Bhagat, Howard Royer, and th late Joel Thompson. "The Church of North Indi should offer an increased sense of security and stronger voice of courage as Indians speak of thei faith to their neighbors and to their nation, Bowman said at the time.

But by the mid-1970s, cracks appeared in th hope for unity. After a dispute over CNI's ne constitution, the former Brethren congregatio at Bulsar (now Valsad) seceded from the unio in 1978, and several other congregations followe it out the door. Though most former Brethre remained loyal to the united church, the new grou called itself—illegally in the eyes of its CNI brothers and sisters—the Church of the Brethren.

In the intervening years this group has grow to include 15 churches and 21 preaching points claiming an estimated membership of 3,700. Though tiny by comparison with the Church of North India, which has about one million members, the rebel group is self-supporting and growing. In the past 20 years it has built eight church buildings with more underway, and operates three high schools with 900 students total.

Now, after 22 years of backing the Church of North India in this dispute, the Church of the Brethren in the US has made a dramatic shift in ts position. A proposed timetable calls for Annual Conference in 2001 to officially recognize what was earlier described as the "breakaway group." If recognized, the group calling itself Church of the Brethren in India would no longer be regarded as a schismatic movement whose leaders have questionable motives. Instead it would be a full sister —alongside Brethren churches in Nigeria and the Dominican Republic—to the Church of the Brethren in the US. Already there is a committee working on how to include such partner churches in Annual Conference deliberations.

The prospect of adopting a sister from India has considerable appeal. In an Internet age that is earning the meaning of globalization in communication and commerce, US churches are exploring ways to span the globe without the paternalism that marred noble mission efforts of the past. Annual Conference polity changes of recent years have opened the way for "close partnership" with Brethren groups outside the US. The vision of the 1998 global church structure paper is for "two-way mission" between the Church of the Brethren in the US and churches in other countries. The cross-fertilization that can occur when Christians of different cultures share their faith with each other can enhance ministry on both sides of the dialog.

The presence of a self-supporting church in India that already carries our name, our history and traditions, even our logo, seems ready-made for recognition. There has been little opposition on the General Board, and the move would please a strong interest group of US Brethren, many with relatives in India. Church members in the US and n India may wonder why it has taken so long for the denomination to come around to this position. The reasons involve promises and property.

"If we give official recognition to the breakaway group," said Lamar Gibble, who strongly opposes the current direction, "we break the covenant with the Church of North India. I think that's the bottom line." Gibble, of St. Charles, Ill., was for 10 years the General Board's World Ministries staff member assigned to Asia, until he retired in 1997.

The "covenant" to which he refers is the Covenant of Church Union, signed by officers of the Church of the Brethren in India Nov. 29, 1970. It says in part that the "rights, title, claims, estates, and interests of this Church [Church of the Brethren in India] together with the privileges and obligations shall as from the date of inauguration, vest in the Church of North India as its legal heir."

In the US, the Church of the Brethren General Board recommended to the 1969 Annual Conference that "the Annual Conference respond to the emergence of the Church of North India with gratitude and rejoicing and that it pledge the Brotherhood's continuing prayers, support, and love." Thus, the year before church union, Annual Conference adopted the resolution of support for the emerging Church of North India. But apparently that is the only official action taken by the US church on the matter. Research has so far uncovered no official ratification of the merger by either the General Board or Annual Conference.

Despite this lack of official action by Brethren in the US, Gibble and others say the US church was understood to be a part of the covenant at the time, and still is morally bound to support it,

"It was their decision to go in to church union, and we said, 'Blessings on you.' It was their decision to come out, and we can say, 'Welcome back.'"

–Shantilal Bhagat

Merv Keeney

Feetwashing remains an integral part of the Brethren tradition in India. *Several hundred attended this love feast at Pervad.*

"Recognition will be used for different purposes and reasons than anybody in the Annual Conference thinks."

–Roger Schrock

rather than recognizing those Indian churches that broke from the agreement in 1978.

"In the whole process leading toward church union, the mission agencies were the ones who indeed were very much a part of that commitment process," Gibble recalls. "Everyone knew that if the mission agencies were not committed to the covenant, it wouldn't last. Even though no stateside Brethren signatures were on the covenant, the assumption was always clearly that we were partners to the covenant."

Roger Schrock, who was the General Board's World Ministries Commission executive from 1985 to 1990, agrees that the US church is morally bound to uphold the church union agreement. "The union happened with our blessing," he said. "It wasn't an action of Annual Conference, but about 90 percent of the things that happen in world ministries do not go before Annual Conference. In my understanding, we entered into a covenant. And we Brethren say that our word is as good as our bond."

Backers of recognition say their research shows that even though the US church supported the covenant made between churches in India because it wanted to be a good partner to CNI, there never was a covenant binding the US church. "It was their decision to go in [to church union], and we said 'Blessings on you.'" says Shantilal Bhagat about the Church of the Brethren in India. "It was their decision to come out, and we can say, 'Welcome back.'"

Related to the covenant discussion is the issue of the use of the name, Church of the Brethren in India. As early as 1983, World Ministries Commission executive Ruby Rhoades explained in a letter, "I have no problem in recognizing the separated CNI members as a legitimate church. I do have a problem in their taking the name of the Church of the Brethren when that church was dissolved in order to become a part of the CNI."

A 1988 Annual Conference study committee reaffirmed that view: "In respect to the use of the 'Church of the Brethren in India' name, we believe it is clearly indicated in the signed Covenant of Union that the Church of North India was to become the full legal successor to all the respective

continued on page 25

TRAVELING TOWARD RECONCILIATION

Indian congregations welcomed a US delegation in March. *Christy Waltersdorff (center) and Ernest Thakor meet a church leader. Shantilal Bhagat (behind) facilitated communications and travel for the group.*

Merv Keeney

Nearly a decade after the last Annual Conference action on India with seemingly no movement toward resolving the conflict, in 1997 the Global Mission Partnerships office began a series of contacts by staff consultant Shantilal Bhagat in an attempt to bring both parties to the table. An ad hoc India advisory committee pulled together in June 1998 supported renewed initiatives toward reconciliation.

By mid-1998 there was agreement for a joint meeting, but two planned meetings that fall collapsed as one or both parties backed out as the dates neared. Both sides suggested separate meetings with US Brethren in early 1999 to build toward a joint meeting.

Global Mission Partnerships director Merv Keeney went to India in March 1999, taking along Bob Gross, an experienced mediator and leader of the Ministry of Reconciliation. In separate meetings the two sides agreed to a joint meeting in August 1999. But when Keeney and Gross went back in August as planned, CNI had just learned about the General Board's appointment of property trustees from the separated group, so they did not show up. Keeney and Gross met with the trustees and urged that the properties be used for the benefit of both churches, then met privately with CNI leaders.

On Jan. 31 this year, a delegation including General Board chair Mary Jo Flory-Steury, executive director Judy Mills Reimer, former India missionary Wendell Flory, and Keeney met with CNI leaders in Toronto, Canada, where they primarily listened to CNI concerns. Then in March a committee appointed by the General Board to "continue the conversation about recognition with the Indian Brethren" went to India and visited 11 of the 15 congregations in the separated group. In spite of prior requests to meet with CNI pastors in the areas visited, no CNI pastors met with the committee.

A conversation with CNI leaders is scheduled to take place in Elgin, Ill., this month.

The Brethren Home Community
since 1908

Recent expansion at The Brethren Home Community has made possible more residential options, a Meeting House and a wonderful Community Center. Through it all, the same unified commitment we've had for our resident's personal dignity since 1908 has prevailed. It is our purpose to encourage independent living and provide choices that ensure quality of life in the retirement years. These purposes are nurtured by a strong 92 year history of Christian compassion. Of all the things we're doing at The Brethren Home Community, perhaps what we do best is care!

JOINING HANDS
OUCHING LIVES

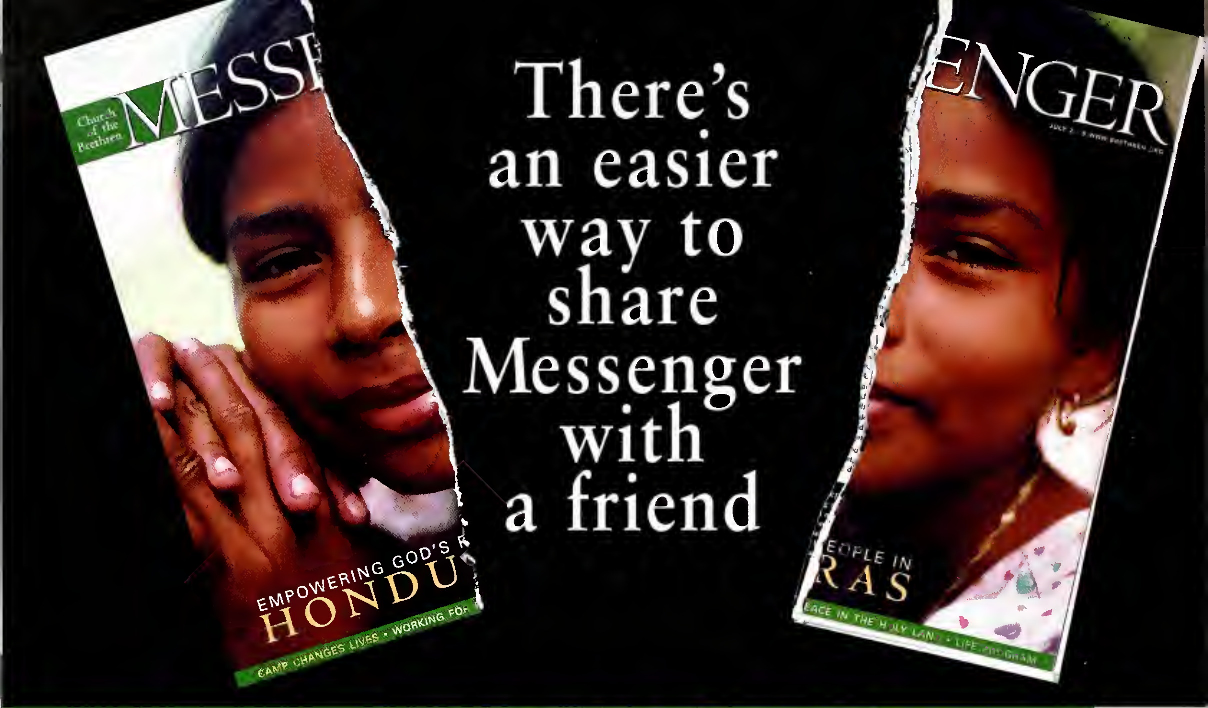
- Scheduled Transportation
- On-Campus Banking
- Special Care Unit
- Medical Center Nearby
- Assisted Living Center

CROSS KEYS VILLAGE
COTTAGES • HARMONY RIDGE APARTMENTS
2990 Carlisle Pike - P.O. Box 128, New Oxford, PA 17350-0128
1-888-624-TBHC or 717-624-2161
www.brethrenhome.org

- Therapeutic Recreational Activities
- Health Care Facility Staffed by Highly-Qualified and Caring Nurses
- Adult Day Services

Medicare
Medicaid
Approved

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY


Church of the Brethren
MESS
EMPOWERING GOD'S
HONDU
CAMP CHANGES LIVES • WORKING FOR
There's an easier way to share Messenger with a friend
ENGER
EOPLE IN
RAS
ACE IN THE HOLY LAN • LIFE PROGRAM

First-time subscribers can get a full year of MESSENGER for just $6.75, less than 62 cents an issue.*

Introducing Messenger...
...at half the price!

Introductions are sometimes awkward.

But those who get to know MESSENGER find it is a great way for Christians to expand their local Christian witness by becoming acquainted with the global mission and ministry of the Church of the Brethren.

More congregations are learning that providing new or prospective members with a subscription to MESSENGER introduces them quickly to the exciting work of the Brethren.

This introduction just got easier. Because it is half-price. Please help introduce MESSENGER to those in your congregation who don't receive MESSENGER.

For details call 800-323-8039, ext. 247.

* The only requirement for the introductory rate is to subscribe through a local congregation.

MESSENGER

continued from page 24

joining churches. In light of the covenant given to the Church of North India, we do not believe we have the right to reinstate the name of the 'Church of the Brethren' to any group in India."

Merv Keeney, the Global Mission Partnerships director, said he has urged the group seeking recognition to find a new name, because doing so would be a "tension reliever" in negotiations with the Church of North India. In some of his official correspondence with CNI leaders Keeney refers to the group as "Bhaioni Mandali," which is Gujarati for Church of the Brethren. But it may be unlikely the group will give up Church of the Brethren in India, because that is the name still on the valuable properties Brethren missionaries left behind.

The property is the thorn in the flesh," says Roger Schrock, in a statement that might win more agreement than most generalizations about the dispute.

Merv Keeney says the issue of church property in India has been overrated, and he's fond of quoting an India advisory committee member who said that property is seldom the cause of divorce, but when a couple decides to separate, fights about property are common.

Even so, if it weren't for the existence of substantial real estate accumulated over 75 years of Church of the Brethren mission in India, the dispute in India might have been settled years ago. The most important properties are in two public trusts, one in the state of Gujarat where most of the former Brethren are, and one in neighboring Maharashtra state (see "Mission properties" p. 26). Official estimates place the value of the Gujarat State properties at $4.5 million and the Maharashtra properties at $1.2 million, though some who are familiar with the properties rate their value much higher. The fact that the Church of the Brethren General Board in the US still has some legal authority over the property complicates the issue all the more.

Lamar Gibble asserts that the desire to control former mission properties is the driving force behind the separated group's use of the name Church of the Brethren in India, and its desire for recognition by the US church. "It hasn't been tested," he said, "but if we recognize officially, that gives them the status in the courts that they've been fighting for all these years."

Roger Schrock agrees: "If the breakaway group is recognized, that just gives them one more leg up in the courts. Recognition will be used for different purposes and reasons than anybody in the Annual Conference thinks."

Keeney affirms that official recognition would give the separated group a better chance in the court system to win property disputes. But that may not be all bad if the properties end up being put to better use in the work of the church. He points out that following the General Board's appointment of Indian Brethren as property trustees a year ago, a government overseer of the Vocational Training College in Ankleshvar departed voluntarily, saying that his services were no longer needed because the trust, which had been in a stalemate, was functioning properly once again. Keeney is willing to try to arrange a compromise on property issues, but so far neither side has shown much interest in compromise.

Bread and cup in India—*chapatis* and juice from cooked raisins, *shown here with a pastor's stole imprinted with the Church of the Brethren denominational logo.*

Backers of recognition say that even though the US church supported the covenant between the churches of India, there never was a covenant binding the US church.

Church of the Brethren mission properties were placed in trusts prior to birth of the Church of North India in 1970, with the idea that they would be amalgamated into the Church of North India once it was ready to receive them. But for various reasons the transfer didn't take place before the group broke away from CNI in 1978, and then it was too late. In July 1979, CNI filed suit against the separatist group, asking the court to stop it from using the Church of the Brethren name and claiming property under that name. That suit has never been fully resolved. Over the years more suits and countersuits have been filed between the two churches, and now more than 30 cases are pending. India's notoriously slow court system hasn't resolved the issues, and the legal tangle has preoccupied both sides, keeping them from the real mission of the church.

Legal challenges have also thwarted past attempts by the Church of the Brethren in the US to appoint property trustees from CNI, or to turn over the appointing power to CNI. It turns out that sitting trustees also have to approve new appointees before they can be officially seated by the charity commissioner. So in the past the sitting trustees from the separated group would refuse to forward the names of CNI trustees to the charity commissioner for approval. As the stalemate continued, properties deteriorated.

> "Can we as the mother church now help these two daughter churches to reconcile a hateful past and receive grace from God, and each other?"
>
> –Merv Keeney

Seeking a way around this legal Catch-22, in the mid-1990s Lamar Gibble went to India where he testified for three days before the charity commissioner to clarify the General Board's wishes that CNI trustees be seated. When he returned to the US he thought he had been successful, only to find out later that the CNI trustees hadn't been seated after all.

Gibble says that at the center of each court initiative that has frustrated attempts by the church in the US to transfer property to CNI is the name of Emu Bhagat. Supporters of recognition for the separated group acknowledge that Bhagat is a controversial figure, but point out that even George Washington was considered a rascal by the British. According to one source, he is highly respected by members of his church for his ability to use the court system in the separated group's quest for property control, and to stand up to the leaders of CNI.

Lamar Gibble, who struggled with the India problem for nine years as a General Board staff member, has sent strongly worded letters to Keeney, insisting that the current move toward recognition is the wrong course. It will "serve to fuel the hope of the breakaway group in its primary effort, which is to secure the valuable former mission properties of the General Board for their narrow and to some extent personal gain," he wrote.

Keeney responds that there have been instances of individual corruption and less-than-Christian behavior on both sides of the India dispute. And, though property often takes center stage, there are other issues between the two sides in India. The separated group has told US church officials that they are being mistreated by a heavy-handed CNI, which prevents their church from being recognized by other Indian churches and keeps their members out of the ecumenical seminary. They say CNI has an Anglican-style hierarchy, while they prefer a more egalitarian Brethren-style structure, and that CNI has refused some requests to use church buildings which are supposed to be shared.

"Some persons find parallels between the CNI-Brethren relationship and the state church oppression of the early Brethren in Europe," Keeney said in a report to the General Board.

Evidence of the deteriorating relationship between US Brethren and their former ally CNI came during a March visit by a General Board delegation when a rock was thrown and narrowly missed the Americans. After learning of the incident, a CNI official wrote in a letter to Keeney: "The anger it seems had been directed to Mr. E. P. Bhagat and Mr. Shantilal Bhagat and not to the

THE MISSION PROPERTIES BEHIND THE FUSS

The Church of the Brethren General Board is related to two public trusts in India. One is the Church of the Brethren General Board (CBGB) Trust, which is registered in the State of Gujarat. The second is the General Brotherhood Board Church of the Brethren (GBB) Trust, which is registered in the State of Maharashtra.

The estimated value of properties in the first trust, which is within the geographical boundaries of what had been the First District of the Church of the Brethren in India, is $4.5 million (US). Officials cautioned that professional appraisals would be needed to get an accurate market value. According to Shantilal Bhagat, most of these properties are in direct possession of the Church of North India, and have been since CNI was formed in 1970.

The only properties in direct possession and management of the trustees of the CBGB trust are the ones located in Ankleshvar and Valsad (Bulsar). Properties in these two places together represent a major share of the overall value of all CBGB Trust properties in Gujarat State. The trust currently operates the Vocational Training College in Ankleshvar, a high school in Valsad (Bulsar), and owns three properties that are presently used as hostels by other groups. It also manages properties at a number of locations in the southern part of Gujarat State. Most

Brethren Historical Library and Archives

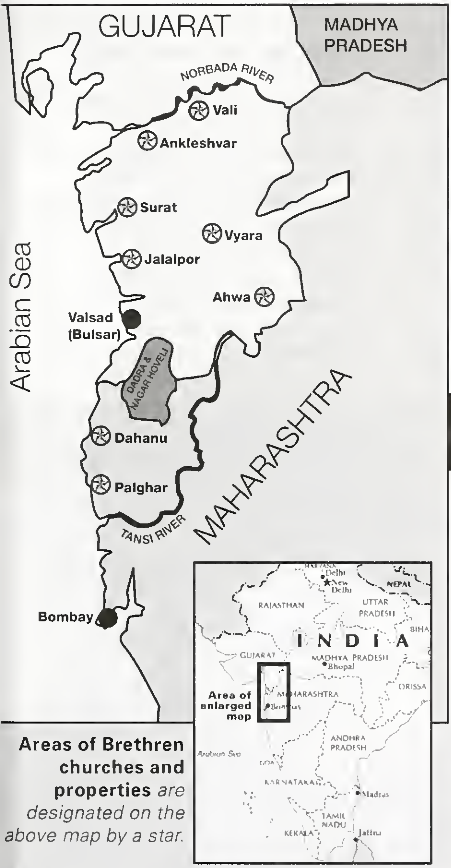
The verandah of the Dahanu hospital in 1927. *The property, still being operated as a hospital, is valuable today.*

visiting team. I have been assured that these feelings were not expressed against the visitors from USA, and you must believe us on this."

Keeney shot back a reply: "We were surprised that your letter included so little in the way of apologies about the violent behavior of CNI members during this visit. The stone flew within centimeters of several heads of committee members and damaged the car we rode in, so we are puzzled at your assertion that the anger was not directed at the delegation. By pointing out that the anger was not directed against the visitors from USA, but only at the Bhagats, I hope that you are not implying that it was acceptable for CNI members to use violence against E. P. and S. P. Bhagat. This attitude, and the behavior we experienced, do not reflect the mind of Christ."

Despite physical and verbal rock-throwing, Keeney insists that the goal is for the US church to serve as a reconciler of differences, and to end up with both churches in India as partners of the Church of the Brethren in the US. "Can we as the mother church now help these two daughter churches to reconcile a hateful past and receive grace from God, and each other?" he writes.

"Can the American church find our way through the deep feelings on both sides of these issues and regain footing on the values that we believe are central to the church? Christ calls us to love the enemy and to recognize God in the enemy. God calls us to to be about God's work in the world. Christians should work together as one, even if the church cannot yet be structurally integrated into one body. Just as spokes on a wheel, as we move toward Christ as the center, we move closer to each other."


GUJARAT
MADHYA PRADESH
NORBADA RIVER
Vali
Ankleshvar
Surat
Vyara
Jalalpor
Ahwa
Valsad (Bulsar)
DADRA & NAGAR HOVELI
Arabian Sea
MAHARASHTRA
Dahanu
Palghar
TANSI RIVER
Bombay
HARYANA
Delhi
New Delhi
NEPAL
RAJASTHAN
UTTAR PRADESH
BIHA
INDIA
GUJARAT
MADHYA PRADESH
Bhopal
ORISSA
Area of enlarged map
MAHARASHTRA
Bombay
ANDHRA PRADESH
Arabian Sea
GOA
KARNATAKA
Madras
TAMIL NADU
KERALA
Jaffna

Areas of Brethren churches and properties *are designated on the above map by a star.*

Merv Keeney

The Vocational Training College in Anklesvar, *founded by Brethren mission efforts in 1924, trains elementary school teachers. A visiting US delegation is pictured with the college's staff.*

of them are in Ankleshvar, Vyara, and Valsad (Bulsar), including a former hospital at Valsad. Over the years, some of the properties were acquired by the Gujarat government for public purposes and some were sold to individuals.

The second trust, in what was the old Second District of the Church of the Brethren, has properties worth an estimated $1.2 million (US). This trust has properties in two locations—one in Dahanu Road, about 7.5 acres and a number of buildings used by the Brethren Mission Hospital, and the other is about seven acres of land in Palghar.

There are two other trusts, one in the old First District and one in the old Second District of the Church of the Brethren. The Church of the Brethren General Board has no responsibility for appointing trustees to these trusts, but they have not been amalgamated into the Church of North India. These trusts own and manage church buildings, parsonages, and in some cases land given to the church. The properties of the First District Church of the Brethren Trust registered in the State of Gujarat have been in the possession of CNI congregations since 1970.

Pass along forgiveness

Your editorial in June on forgiveness strikes me as extremely important right now as I relate personally, and as others share with me in their relating to one another. Thank you.

I hope other publications pick up on it and "recycle" your (and I believe God's) message. I made photocopies to use in Sunday school class and to share with friends.

Clyde Carter
Daleville, Va.

What to do Memorial Day?

I am writing this letter on Memorial Day, the holiday when our country remembers its war dead and in general celebrates its manliness in the making of war. It is a difficult time for the historic peace churches to know how to handle. What do we do with Memorial Day?

I know of one Church of the Brethren congregation that uses Memorial Day to remember all the people who have died in the past year. But this is more properly done on All Saints Day.

At another Brethren congregation, the pastor took vacation on Memorial Day Sunday, so he would not have to be present when the congregation did the Memorial Day thing. It is hard for a pastor to know what to do. Too many members feel their church owes them the worldly approach to Memorial Day, and to take it away from them feels like an insult to their dearly departed loved ones.

All we need to do is designate the Memorial Day weekend as "Brethren Peace Witness Sunday."

My father, a retired Brethren pastor, remembers the period after World War I, when the peace position of the church was allowed to slide. Then another war came along, and the church was unprepared. Since Vietnam it seems we have done the same. We need to have a Peace Witness Sunday.

Dad actually did this on his own in the late 1950s. A local veterans organization had asked whether they could come as a group and worship on Memorial Day Sunday. Dad said, "Sure." Close to two dozen showed up for worship and took up several pews. And then Dad preached a sermon about peace: "There is nobody who wants peace more than those who have gone through the horrors of war." Each and every veteran thanked him for his message.

Bill Bowse
Martinsburg, Pa

Jesus and the death penalty

I do not see how the person who wrote the letter in your May issue came to the conclusion that Jesus recommended capital punishment. Jesus did not believe in taking anyone's life for any reason or in any circumstance. "You shall not kill."

We don't kill someone we love and God says we must love our enemies and do good to them. Jesus, in speaking to Peter, was expressing how foolish it is to take up arms against anyone.

OUR DOORS ARE OPEN, PLEASE DROP IN...

Mill Ridge Village, Dayton's newest retirement community, is bursting with excitement as we showcase our four spacious cottage home designs! We'll do the cottage maintenance and yard care, while you enjoy the retirement lifestyle of your dreams. And our beautiful Community Center is like frosting on the cake - it's yours to use for family reunions and other special occasions when you need lots of space! And enjoy the events and activities planned by the staff - for fun, for education, and for good health.

Tours are available today!
Stop in Monday - Friday
from 10:00 - 4:00;
or call 937-832-6303. We also invite you to visit our web site at www.millridgevillage.org

owned and operated by Brethren Retirement Community

Mill Ridge Village

1000 Mill Ridge Circle
Union, OH 45322

> "Jesus, in speaking to Peter, was expressing how foolish it is to take up arms against anyone. Please, brother, take another look at Jesus! God is the only judge who can pronounce death."

Please, brother, take another look at Jesus! God is the only judge who can pronounce death.

G. Richard Radcliff
Blue Ridge, Va.

Violence begets violence

I disagree with the May letter which suggests that Jesus advocated the death penalty. The statement in Matthew 26:52, "All who take up the sword will perish by the sword," was Jesus's way of saying, "Never use violence against one person to protect another person, for violence begets violence."

Jesus set aside the "eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth" requirement of the Mosaic legal code and said to turn the other cheek instead. He said, "Love your enemies" (Matt. 5:44). He rebuked James and John when they wanted to emulate Elijah by calling down fire on their enemies (Luke 9:52-55). He stopped the stoning of a woman caught in adultery by saying, "Let anyone who is without sin cast the first stone" (John 8:3-11).

It seems very clear that Jesus opposed the death penalty.

Jerry C. Stanaway
Lombard, Ill.

From the
Office of Human Resources

Coordinator, Disaster Child Care

A full-time position based in New Windsor, Md. Oversight and administration of all activities and funds related to the operation of Disaster Child Care program. Interviews will continue until the position is filled.

For more information
and application form contact:

Elsie Holderread at
800-742-5100 or e-mail
eholderread_gb@brethren.org

Providing Superior Care for Your Peace of Mind

EVERYTHING YOU WANT
IN A SERENE YET CONVENIENT COUNTRY SETTING.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING IN CROSS KEYS VILLAGE
- HARMONY RIDGE APARTMENTS OR COTTAGES

DINING - PLANNED ACTIVITIES - TRANSPORTATION
ON-CAMPUS BANKING & MEDICAL FACILITIES

ASSISTED LIVING CENTER
- SHELTERED NEIGHBORHOOD
- PRIVATE ROOMS WITH BATH
- HEALTH CARE CENTER
- HOUSEKEEPING

EVERYTHING YOU NEED
- SUPPORT SERVICES
- HOME HEALTH SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE (ALZHEIMER'S) UNIT
- CROSS KEYS SUBACUTE CENTER
- ADULT DAY SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE UNIT
- NURSING CARE
- RESPITE CARE

MEDICARE/MEDICAID APPROVED

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Christian care since 1908

2990 CARLISLE PIKE - P.O. BOX 128
NEW OXFORD, PA 17350-0128
1-888-624-8242
WWW.BRETHRENHOME.ORG

The Brethren Home Community

From the
Brethren Benefit Trust

Director of Information Systems

Elgin, IL (available immediately)

Managing and Directing the Information Systems operations including the WWW and the design, maintenance and administration of all information systems platforms; Novell, Windows NT, Linux, and Windows 95, with specific knowledge of Microsoft's SQL, Oracle Access and Pick's 03 Databases. Application deployment methods across LAN, WAN, VPN are also essential to this position. Manage staff and departmental capital and operational budgets. Oversee arrangements with other agencies for systems, services and support.

Requirements:

- BS in Computer science, MS preferred
- Proficient in Novell and Linux with strong database design and management background
- 7-10 years information systems management responsibilities/ 5 years managerial background
- Strong background in the implementation of software solutions and a proven level of accomplishments related to systems design, upgrade and maintenance
- Strong verbal and written communication skills

Interested and qualified persons may apply by sending letter, resumé, and salary history to Claudia Sheets, 1505 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120 or FAX to 847/742-0135

CLASSIFIEDADS

Christian Family Practice group is seeking a family physician to join our growing practice. We are located in North Central Indiana, near Goshen. We provide obstetrics with many deliveries done at an Amish Birthing Center near Shipshewana. Opportunities for short- or long-term missions. Independently owned (six physicians & one PA) and committed to remaining sensitive to the needs of the local community. Option to buy in. Contact Steve Wendler, Administrator, at Middlebury Family Physicians, PO Box 459, Middlebury, IN 46540. Day telephone: 219-825-2900 Evening: 219-825-7506.

Good Shepherd Home is seeking a full-time chaplain for this rural 100-bed nursing home and licensed 50-bed rest home located in Fostoria, Ohio. This position will provide spiritual care to the residents, families and employees. If willing, the chaplain may assist the executive director and Board of Trustees with fund raising and development projects. Good Shepherd Home prefers candidates who are licensed or ordained ministers with strong written and verbal skills. Send or fax resumes to Chris Widman, executive director, phone (419) 435-1801; fax (419) 435-1594.

Travel with a purpose. Visit the "Cradle of Civilization," March 16-29, 2001. Featuring: crossing the Red Sea, visiting Mt. Sinai, cruising on the Sea of Galilee, cable car ride to Massada. Visit Petra, the rose city, Jerusalem, The Holy Land, St. Catherine Monastery on Mt. Sinai. Full breakfast and dinner throughout. For information write Wendell and Joan Bohrer, 8520 Royal Meadow Drive, Indianapolis, IN. 46217. Tel/fax 317-882-5067. E-mail rdwboh@aol.com.

Visiting Washington, D.C.? Come worship with us at the Arlington Church of the Brethren, 300 N. Montague St, Arlington, Virginia. Phone 703-524-4100. Services: Sunday School 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. Worship: 11:00 a.m. Summer Hours: June 4 thru September 3. Worship 10:00 a.m. No Sunday School. Nursery Services Provided. Roseann B. Cook, Pastor.

The Association of Brethren Caregivers is seeking a full-time Coordinator of Shared Services to assist the Executive Director with programming and services to the association and the Fellowship of Brethren Homes, a ministry with Brethren retirement communities. Ideal candidates will demonstrate the following qualifications: working knowledge of the mechanisms and processes which impact services to the aging; experience in retirement community management; understanding of Church of the Brethren heritage; bachelor's degree in a related field; proficiency in interpretation and consensus building; comfort providing leadership in an environment with diverse interests; excellent communication, organization and computer skills. The position, located in Elgin, Illinois, is available on January 1, 2001. Direct inquiries or send letters of application with résumé and three references to Steve Mason, Executive Director, ABC, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120.

Come, experience the warm hospitality, caring witness, and Spirit-filled worship of the Church of the Brethren in the Dominican Republic. Participate in a travel seminar offered by Bethany Theological Seminary and led by Dan Ulrich, Jerry Crouse, and Becky Baile Crouse on January 2-16, 2001. Cost is $785 plus air fare Tuition is extra for those seeking academic credit Spanish is helpful but not required. For more information, call 765-983-1800.

Walk where Jesus walked with Pastor Roger Forry November 13 thru 20, 2000. This is a pilgrimage of a lifetime! Breakfast and dinner are included daily. Bus transportation is provided from the Somerset, Pennsylvania area or passengers can meet the group at J F K airport for their journey to Israel. Visit this historical area from a Christian perspective with an emphasis on Protestantism Professional bilingual guide service. A bargain price for an excellent trip! Call 800-462-1592 for details

Goshen College invites applications for a tenure track appointment in Bible and religion beginning July 2001. Qualifications: Ph.D. in biblical studies with a concentration in Hebrew Bible (ABD considered); secondary competence in religious studies or theology required. Responsibilities; teach eight undergraduate courses, including Biblical Literature (multiple sections), upper division course in area of specialization, and other courses within interdisciplinary general education program of liberal arts college. The successful candidate must be willing to accept Goshen College's mission statement and standards and affirm Anabaptist perspectives. Women and people from underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply. Goshen College is an affirmative action employer. Send letter addressing qualification, curriculum vitae, undergraduate/graduate transcripts, and three current letters of reference to Provost John Yordy, Goshen College, 1700 Main Street S., Goshen, IN 46526. Deadline for application is August 31, 2000. E-mail: provost@goshen.edu. Telephone: (219) 535-7501 Fax: (219) 535 -7060.

The Olive Tree Community has been a source of food, fuel, furnishings and oil for anointing for over 6,000 years. Because it matures very slowly —one tree can live for over a thousand years—parents and grandparents plant olive trees for their children, leaving a valuable legacy for the next generation. Bethany's Olive Tree Community joins together a special group of friends who have a similar commitment to the Seminary. Through deferred and estate gifts, they are leaving a legacy for future generations to nurture the leadership needed for our children, grandchildren and new children in the Church of the Brethren. We invite you to become a member of the Olive Tree Community. When you make your will, purchase life insurance, start a retirement plan or review your current estate plan, why not consider including Bethany as a beneficiary for part or all of the proceeds. Contact Lowell Flory at 800-287-8822 for more information.

This month's Turning Points includes all listings received prior to 6/11/00 not previously published. Forms for submitting Turning Points information are available by calling Peggy Reinacher at 800-323-8039.

New members

Altoona 28th Street, Altoona, Pa.: Eric Flumerfelt, Kris Hoovler, Megan Hoovler, Wesley McConnell, Katie Muccitelli, Jason Wilson
Bethany, New Paris, Ind.: Stan and Nancy Gurka, Scott and Cami Wakley, Desmond Schoonover, Stephanie Dowty, Brad Dowty, Amanda Burger, Nathan Abshire, Holly Abshire, Amanda Boyer, Mike Reuter, Whitney Gall, John Gall, Justin Conrad
Big Creek, Cushing, Okla.: Nancy Chipukites, Chip Chipukites, Rita Hendrix, Jessie Hendrix, Allen Harmon, Dale Wolff, Cindy Wolff, Roxanne Lease, Jennifer Mattingly
Bridgewater, Va.: Wilmer and Thelma Crummett, Charles and Mary Miller, Gerri Rigney, Mary C. Detrick, Mallory Custer, Maria Partlow, Lori Racca, Mary Beahm, James and Anita Beckman
Cedar Creek, Garrett, Ind.: Skip Smeltzer, Shelley Smeltzer
Dixon, Ill.: Suzanne Crossland, Carol Jackley
Ephrata, Pa.: Mary Cable, Paul Hosler, David and Michele Mummau, Christel Foltz, Charles and Mary Garrett
Harper Woods, Mich.: Paul Fitzpatrick, Erica Fitzpatrick
Heidelberg, Reistville, Pa.: Sarah Bucher, Carl Hoffman, Donna Hoffman, Tiffany Hoffman
Independence, Kan.: Revenna Eikenberry, Wayne Eikenberry, Dana J. Hart, Jayson McMaster, Meagan McMaster, Ernest H. Newton, Scott Reimer, Betty May Twilley
Lansing, Mich.: Jesse Baker-Ferenchick, Philip BrunDelRe, Matthew Curtis-Watkins, Justin Ernst, Chelsea Marr, Tara Herrold
Lewiston, Minn.: Brent Risser, Shawn Sanders, Jeffrey Peckover, Angela Pospichal-Heublein, Lisa Mundt, Lynda Mundt, Ulrike Schorn-Hoffert
Lower Claar, Claysburg, Pa.: Dorothy Helsel, Chelsea Oakes
Marsh Creek, Gettysburg, Pa.: Breanna MacDonald, Olivia Orndorff, Raquel Woerner, Storm Woerner, Catherine L. Dick
Moxham, Johnstown, Pa.: Joyce Mahon, Gregory Jacoby, Steven Wilson
Painter Creek, Arcanum, Ohio: Helen Morris, Mildred Routzong
Peace, Council Bluffs, Iowa: Abby Barritt, Jillian Brooks, Lynsi Brooks, Cathy Cunningham, Jan Forbes, Amanda Frazier, Zach Frazier, Wayne Lewis, Ashley Watson, Josh Watson
Petersburg Memorial, Petersburg, W.Va.: Bill Alt, Bill Alt, Jr., Mary Lou Alt
Philadelphia, Pa.: Lisa and John Dutterer
Pleasant View, Fayetteville, W.Va.: Susan Osborne
Uniontown, Pa.: Brad Balsley, Eric Gottheld, Lauren Knox, Seth McElroy, Jane McShane, Penny McShane, Chelsea Smitley, Oscar Verbus
Wenatchee, Wash.: Linda Davis, Eugene Jordan, Deda Preston, Lois Russell, Jim and Evelyn Weimer
West Green Tree, Elizabethtown, Pa.: Joann and David Hoppman, Mindy and Steve Smith, Kirsten Flowers, Kelsey Hollinger, Ellen and Richard Bowers
Westernport, Md.: Charles Barnard, Lurene Barnard, Matthew Shimer
York, Pa.: S. Alexander Ginder, Daniel Vuono

Wedding anniversaries

Bender, Kermit and Dorothy, Elizabethtown, Pa., 50
Goodenberger, Melvin and Thelma, Canton, Ohio, 60
Groth, John and Esther, Independence, Kan., 60
Hinds, William and Mildred, Hartville, Ohio, 60
Kaylor, Dalton and Helen, Danville, Ohio, 50
Ledgerwood, Olin and Helen, Hartville, Ohio, 50
Miller, Herman and Frances, Bridgewater, Va., 65
Quay, Clarence and Mary, Bridgewater, Va., 50
Rogers, David and Shirley, N. Manchester, Ind., 50
Ross, Wayne and Mary Elizabeth, N. Manchester, Ind., 50
Shankster, Owen and Celia, Roann, Ind., 50
Showalter, Luther and Alverta, Edgewood, Md., 50
Statler, Harold and Ruth, Keyser, W.Va., 50
Stern, Irven and Pattie, McPherson, Kan., 50
Veno, Francis and Lorraine, Uniontown, Pa., 50
Wolfe, Hugh and June, Glen Burnie, Md., 60

Deaths

Allison, Grace, 85, Claysburg, Pa., Dec. 30
Anderson, Roman, 74, Goshen, Ind., Jan. 7
Andrews, Harold L., 80, Dixon, Ill., May 30
Anglemyer, Gladys, Sebring, Fla., Jan. 4
Anstine, Florence H., 94, Hartville, Ohio, Jan. 4
Applegate, E. Wayne, 82, Norton, Kan., Sept. 22
Armey, Irene, 94, Fresno, Calif., April 8
Artman, Dorothy, 85, Red Lion, Pa., Feb. 6
Ballaron, Florence, 96, St. Petersburg, Fla., June 6
Banwart, Harold, Avon Park, Fla., March 22
Barber, Robert E. Lee, 66, Keyser, W.Va., Jan. 3
Beery, Irene, N. Manchester, Ind., June 20
Boland, S. Katharyne, 90, Altoona, Pa., April 25
Brandenstein, Kenneth, Miamisburg, Ohio, April 15
Brumbaugh, Florence, 97, Martinsburg, Pa., Feb. 14
Byrd, Doris, 96, Bridgewater, Va., May 18
Campbell, Violet, 86, Westernport, Md., Feb. 7
Cannon, Harry L., 83, Keyser, W.Va., Nov. 13
Carey, Bernetta, N. Manchester, Ind., April 13
Chadwell, Arthur, Sebring, Fla., April 15
Claar, John E., 77, Claysburg, Pa., Dec. 27
Clay, Josephine, 79, Hartville, Ohio, Jan. 18
Cobaugh, Florence M., 89, Linwood, N.J., May 20
Coffey, Max O., 84, Lookout, W.Va., May 29
Costlow, Mary, 88, Johnstown, Pa., June 6
Curran, Audrey, 77, Norton, Kan., Nov. 2
Dilling, Sophia V., 85, Martinsburg, Pa., Feb. 23
Eller, Henry C., 100, Bridgewater, Va., May 28
Esbensen, Edwin R., San Jose, Calif., March 21
Eshenour, Lloyd, 87, Olney, Md., May 3
Fahs, Eldon Eugene, Milford, Ind., Feb. 8
Fairbanks, Clarence S., 84, Greenville, Ohio, April 19
Fazenbaker, Harry, 72, Westernport, Md., March 25
Fuhrman, Earl S., 77, Spring Grove, Pa., May 21
Garber, Leland F., 62, Emmitsburg, Md., May 18
Gleim, William A., 71, Williamsburg, Pa., March 1
Goodwin, Arthur, 86, Uniontown, Pa., Feb. 2
Gosnell, Joe, 79, Greenville, Ohio, April 1
Gross, Philip H., Sr., 96, Dover, Pa., May 12
Hagerty, James, Sr., 66, Altoona, Pa., April 10
Haugey, Kathryn, 90, Sellersville, Pa., May 13
Hartman, Daniel M., 74, York, Pa., May 19
Heidlebaugh, Raymond E., 75, Hellam, Pa., May 6
Hunter, Nettie, 98, Atlanta, Ind., May 25
Isenberg, Frank W., Johnson City, Tenn., April 11
Johnson, Frank E., Colorado, May 5
Klucher, Robert, 75, York, Pa., March 9
Leckrone, Ida B., 91, Martinsburg, Pa., Feb. 27
Lininger, Geraldine, 74, La Verne, Calif., March 19
Mishler, Naomi, N. Manchester, Ind., Feb. 8
Moyer, Mabel, 98, Greenville, Ohio, June 3
Moyer, Melvin, Linthicum, Md., May 6
Myers, Virgil E., 78, North Canton, Ohio, April 18
Nenninger, William A., 65, Fayetteville, Pa., May 6
Papke, Angela, Winchester, Va., June 5
Petry, Elden M., Bowmansville, Pa., April 17
Ringgold, Paul E., 80, Harrisonburg, Va., May 8
Rinier, Roberta, 79, Akron, Pa., Dec. 6
Robinson, Mary, Sebring, Fla., April 16
Royer, J. Herman, 83, Lancaster, Pa., April 30
Sell, James Matthew, Jr., 73, Duncansville, Pa., May 8
Shaffer, Dorothy, 82, Pomona, Calif., March 19
Shelton, Susan J., Tipp City, Ohio, May 20
Shonk, John W., 81, Lafayette, Ind., April 14
Smith, Jack, 71, La Verne, Calif., April 23
Snider, Eileen N., Manchester, Ind., April 7
Spangle, Blanche M., 97, N. Manchester, Ind., May 14
Stark, William R., 85, Shippensburg, Pa., Feb. 9
Steele, Florence, 87, Martinsburg, Pa., Feb. 21
Waechter, Max, 81, St. Petersburg, Fla., May 16
Washinger, William, Sr., 90, Shippensburg, Pa., Nov. 8
Weekly, Lucille A., 78, Hartville, Ohio, March 8
Werner, Raymond, 84, Hanover, Pa., June 6
Werstler, Dawn M., 78, Greentown, Ohio, March 27
Weyant, Mary E., 88, Orbisonia, Pa., April 22
Will, Harper S., N. Manchester, Ind., May 23
Wineland, Mary, Martinsburg, Pa., April 23
Zook, Edward, Verona, Va., May 27

Licensings

Beasley, Sterling Ray, April 30, Fostoria, Ohio
Brunk, James, May 21, Union City, Ohio
Carroll, James U., June 4, East Nimishillen, North Canton, Ohio
Cassidy, Michael J., May 28, White Branch, Hagerstown, Ind.
Cox, Jimmie B. Jr., May 14, Stonelick, Pleasant Plain, Ohio
Guisewite, Kathy Fuller, May 28, West Richmond, Richmond, Va.
Junkins, Carroll Glen, April 30, Knobley, Martin, W.Va.
Sell, Janet, June 11, Woodbury, Pa.
Smith, Alan Marshal, May 21, Longmeadow, Hagerstown, Md.

Ordinations

Donohoo, B. Douglas, May 28, West Milton, Ohio
Grimes, David, April 30, Pocahontas, Green Bank, W.Va.
Princell, Pamela S., May 7, Mexico, Ind.

Pastoral placement

Bidgood Enders, Elizabeth and Greg, from Richmond, Ind., to co-pastors, Mack Memorial, Dayton, Ohio
Boleen, Kevin D., to Harris Creek, Bradford, Ohio
Deardorff, Tim, to Pyrmont, Delphi, Ind.
Frederick, Stafford, C., from Olathe, Kan., to Summerdean, Roanoke, Va.
Heck, Dewayne, to co-pastor, White Cottage, Ohio
Hyre, Greg Allen, from Eaton, Ohio, to Arcanum, Ohio
Maclay, Connie, from interim to permanent, Beech Run, Mapleton Depot, Pa.
Merritt, Russell, to co-pastor, White Cottage, Ohio
Norris, Victor, from Center Hill, Kittanning, Pa., to Shippensburg, Pa.
Satvedi, Valentina, from North County, San Marcos, Calif., to South Bay Community, Redondo Beach, Calif.
Schrock, J. Roger, from mission administrator, to Cabool, Mo.
Whitten, David, to Moscow, Mount Solon, Va.

EDITORIAL

Let's talk about race

We never got these issues resolved, of course. But in the course of grappling with them week after week we got plenty of opportunity to listen to each other, and to appreciate each other more.

How do you react to this: "A white man who wants to be on the police force is not hired, while several minority applicants with equal scores on the qualifying test are hired."

How do you react to this: "An Asian American woman has cosmetic surgery on her eyes so that they'll have a more 'Anglo' look, feeling that she'll be more attractive this way."

Or this: "My company would like to hire more minorities, but we don't get qualified applicants."

These are all included in the case studies our study circle was asked to consider, as we began one small step toward healing the problem of racism. The town I live in has begun a community conversation on race, part of a national program coordinated by the Study Circles Resource Center of Pomfret, Conn. (www.studycircles.org). As Americans by the thousands are doing all over the country, we Study Circles participants gathered in mixed-race groups of 10-14 two hours weekly for six weeks to talk about race. Much like a Sunday school class, we discussed a workbook that some of us had read and some of us had not, and we were encouraged to share our feelings, or questions, and our fears. When so many of us have been taught not to talk about race, the opportunity for honest and open exchange was refreshing.

In the first session we discussed our own family backgrounds and how they've contributed to our attitudes about race. In another we discussed the roots of racial inequities. Is the history of slavery at the root of the problem? Or is it that people of color lack economic opportunity? What role is played by institutional racism, in which power in our government, schools, and churches continues to be used in a way that favors whites and works against people of color?

We never got these issues resolved, of course. But in the course of grappling with them week after week we got plenty of opportunity to listen to each other, and to appreciate each other more.

A young black woman who lives in a nearly all-white wealthy bedroom community complained that her parents were being racist because they wouldn't let her go out running at night. Several of us the age of her parents told her no, they were being smart. She is smart too, heading for medical school. She explained minorities can't expect to succeed in academia if they are naive about how racial attitudes can work for them or against them.

A middle-aged white man in our group kept saying that the instruction of scripture is the *only* solution to racism. He had "proved" to friends that the Bible says racism is wrong, and they had changed their views. When some of us told him Bible proof doesn't convince everyone, he seemed to consider other forms of persuasion for the first time.

When some of us expressed cynicism about government efforts, a participant who works for the city personnel office convinced us that her office is doing everything it can to recruit qualified minority applicants for police and fire department openings.

An older black man, retired, enjoyed telling us about the white man who moved in next door and saw him cutting his grass. The new neighbor, assuming he was talking to the hired help, asked our friend what he gets for mowing a yard. He answered that he gets to have dinner with the lady who lives in the house.

These sessions didn't accomplish much. But they introduced us to others who care. They made us all more aware of race problems and progress in the news. And they reminded us that bridging racial and cultural boundaries is a joy, not a chore. Some of our churches are sponsoring similar dialog and explorations of racial issues, and experiencing blessings from doing so.

Racism is such a daunting problem it is easy to not do anything about it, or remember that we did something once and think we've done our part. We can take comfort knowing that somebody else is doing something and decide to let them handle it for now. We can pretend that racial problems were solved in the sixties, or that youth are the only ones who need to be educated about racism.

Or we can begin by talking about race more, and listening more. Now is the time to move ahead on race relations in our communities and in our churches. As far back as 1963, Annual Conference approved a statement titled, "The Time is Now to Heal our Racial Brokenness." That was true then, and it is true today. Now is always the time. Yes, we should have done it long ago, and we should have done more. But it isn't as helpful to ask "What have we done?" as it is to ask "What can we do?"

We can begin. —FLETCHER FARRAR

The Love Feast

Compiled by FRANK RAMIREZ

The love feast is based on a simple premise: disciples do as Jesus commands. We examine our lives, wash feet, eat a simple meal, and take communion. Through stories, memories, scriptures, and photographs, the love feast is remembered and renewed, extending the invitation to all to come to the Lord's table.

Here is a glimpse into the corporate memory of this central ritual of our faith. A perfect gift for new members, deacons, church leaders, and all who find their Christian home with the Brethren.

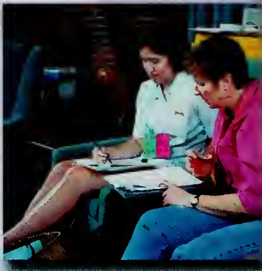
$19.95 paperback #8208
$49.95 limited edition hardcover #8240

Brethren Press
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, Illinois 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712
fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

National Youth Conference, 1998

Preparing leaders today for tomorrow's church

Workcamp, Tijuana, Mexico


Ministry Summer Service Training

EFSM Training, Puerto Rico

Ordination, Dominican Republic

Youth Workcamp, Mexico

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAMS
MINISTRY OFFICE
YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT OFFICE

1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, Illinois 60120
(847) 742-5100

hurch
f the
thren

MESSENGER

SEPTEMBER 2000 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG

Love as I have loved you!!
1

Annual Conference 2000

Changing the way we do business

THE HOUSE OF HERITAGE • HOW WONDROUS THE GRACE

We Practice What's Preached

A Caring Company

We insure members of The Church of the Brethren and member churches exclusively...and we want to transform the way you and your fellow church members think about insurance. That's because we try to follow the practices and teachings of the church in the way that we reach out and care for our policyholders both materially and emotionally. Here are two examples of how we work.

Theft at Camp Woodland Altars ▲

Camp Woodland Altars, in southwestern Ohio, is a recreational and educational camp serving schools, churches, families, and other groups. Over fifty Church of the Brethren congregations support the work of the camp.

People of all ages and faiths have been coming to this thickly forested 450-acre camp for more than 35 years – in part for the serenity and peacefulness that places of natural beauty provide. That serenity was shattered on Tuesday evening, November 9, 1999. Burglars entered the grounds under cover of night and stole camp equipment worth thousands of dollars. They left with expensive tools, generators, horse saddles, a six-wheel all-terrain John Deere Gator, and a 1985 Chevy pickup.

Camp Maintenance Director, Charlie Little, discovered the loss and had the sheriff and Mutual Aid Association notified. Some of the stolen tools are needed every day to keep the camp operating. MAA responded promptly and sent a check overnight that allowed the camp to buy essential items. According to camp officials, Mutual Aid Association's fast action enabled their camp to stay open.

The faithful old Chevy truck was found abandoned within a few days. However, law enforcement officials have so far been unable to find any productive leads. But Camp Woodland Altars has long since replaced its tools, its John Deere Gator, and its saddles so that its guests can once again fully enjoy the camp's beauty and serenity.

A Business Up in Flames ▲

In some ways Steve Flora of Sawyer, Kansas, was lucky. Miraculously, the gasoline cans in his shop didn't explode and the 20-gallon propane tank didn't become a bomb. The wood-frame barn next to his 40-foot by 72-foot metal building didn't catch fire. Nor did his nearby house. But Steve Flora's business was a total loss. In the middle of the night, when Steve, a volunteer fireman, awoke and saw his life's work going up in flames, he sped to the local fire station, opened the doors, and started the engines on the fire trucks so they would be ready to roll when the other firefighters arrived.

Steve's business consisted of sales and service for lawnmowers, trimmers, chainsaws, and the like. Despite the good efforts of the Sawyer firefighters the building was completely destroyed. What was left after the fire on Friday morning, April 30, 1999, had to be torn down. But by Tuesday morning things were looking up.

A team from Mutual Aid Association arrived from Abilene with a check in hand to cover rebuilding. Steve's Mutual Aid Association fire policy covered the business, and his MAA liability policy covered the damage to customer-owned equipment. Team members pitched in to help sort through the debris. They got their hands dirty to lift Steve's spirits and to begin the healing as well as the rebuilding. In just five months, Steve had a new home for his business.

Enjoy Peace of Mind

The Mutual Aid Association has been faithfully meeting the property insurance needs of Brethren Churches and Church members for over a century.

Call 1-800-255-1243 Day or Night

You can also reach us by e-mail at maa@maabrethren.com or over our toll-free, 24-hour fax line at 1-800-238-7535. Our Web address is www.maabrethren.com

Mutual Aid Association
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

A ministry of sharing to secure peace of mind.

© Copyright 2000 Mutual Aid Association MAA-2-114

SEPTEMBER 2000 VOL.149 NO.8 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG

hurch
of the
thren
MESSENGER

or: **Fletcher Farrar** Publisher: **Wendy McFadden** News: **Walt Wiltschek** Advertising: **Russ Matteson** Subscriptions: **Peggy Reinacher** Designer: **Paul Stocksdale**

ONTHECOVER

This month's cover features photos by Kendra Flory, a Ministry Summer Service intern in the Brethren Press Communications Office who also served as lead photographer for this year's Annual Conference. Flory, from McPherson, Kan., will be finishing up studies at Bridgewater (Va.) College this fall and then expects to enter Brethren Volunteer Service. She has assisted with Agenda, Newsline, Messenger, the website, and other communications outlets this summer.

Her Annual Conference photos show, clockwise from top left: people waiting to speak to the query on "Personal Evangelism and Church Growth" during business sessions; 2000 Conference moderator Emily Mumma sharing her "fuzzies" of love; conferencegoers joining in the motions of a drama during Monday evening worship; and the flowing movements of interpretive dancer Sally Carlson Crowell, a member of Washington City Church of the Brethren, Washington, D.C., in the Wednesday morning closing worship service.

10

Eddie Edmonds

Kendra Flory

10 Annual Conference 2000

Coverage of the Kansas City Annual Conference includes news of business and elections, compiled by News Service manager Walt Wiltschek and his Conference team of writers, named on page 10. In addition we feature special articles on other subjects. Ed Poling writes a profile of the Conference delegates (p. 10). Erin Matteson covers music and worship (p. 14). Tavia Ervin contributes an essay on Conference conversations (p.16). Eddie Edmonds reports on children's activities (p. 18). Fletcher Farrar writes about notable speeches (p. 20).

Insert: A theme of grace

"How Wondrous the Grace" is the theme of this year's General Board annual report, included as a supplement to Messenger. In addressing its partners who are both partakers and dispensers of God's grace, the report is in a largely pictorial format. But note, too, how the text attests to the many facets of grace at work within the church. Review especially the fresh interpretation of financial data on pages 14-15. The report was prepared and written by Howard Royer, General Board staff for interpretation.

Kendra Flory

22

22 Keepers of histories

For the past 64 years, the Brethren Historical Library and Archives has been keeping the Brethren faith heritage alive by serving as a repository for documents of the church's past as well as library of nearly 9,000 volumes. Learn here what is available and how you might use it. And meet Ken Shaffer, the 12-year veteran director of BHLA.

DEPARTMENTS

2 From the Publisher
3 In Touch
6 News
27 Letters
30 Turning Points
32 Editorial

FROM THE PUBLISHER

After Annual Conference in Kansas City, our family headed out to encounter the Southwest. Our visits to the Grand Canyon, Zion Canyon, and Bryce Canyon turned out to be a memorable course of study, as we absorbed the five million-year geological history of the Colorado Plateau. While I've traveled in almost all of the 50 states and have seen places of great beauty, nothing compares to this area. The passage of time engraved on the canyon walls and the incomprehensible scale of the rock formations demand a certain humility from the tiny humans who come to observe this grandeur.

While at the Grand Canyon, the bottom step in the "Grand Staircase" of this plateau, I noticed two small signs on old buildings. One was at the westernmost point we could visit, and the other was at the easternmost. Both were verses from the Psalms. How appropriate the Psalms seem when standing on the rim of God's handiwork.

I noticed also that the eastern site offered three gift shops, each with a different focus. I must confess that, in this final stop in the park, our family spent more time in gift shops than gazing at the canyon. The national parks apparently have learned to navigate today's marketing-saturated environment.

While we have now seen the Grand Canyon, I'm fully aware that we have not truly experienced the Grand Canyon. We have viewed it from a safe vantage point, seen it in IMAX format, read about it, photographed it. But we have not hiked to the bottom, nor have we rafted the Colorado River. The writings of the early explorers of this natural wonder carry the passion and awe of those who have been more than tourists.

The Psalmist writes about God in the same way. He writes as one who has experienced both heights and depths, who has ventured into the wilds. Through it all he could say, "Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time on and forevermore" (Psa. 125:1-2).

At Annual Conference we come together to give substance to our commitment to community. We gather at sunrise for the panoramic view, we share our different experiences traversing the trails, we act as guides for one another. We listen to the ranger talks, buy trail maps, and take in plenty of food and water. And we do the same in our smaller communities back home.

But at some point we each decide whether to remain admirers of the view or to enter the canyon. I hope my sisters and brothers continually compel me to be an explorer, not just a spiritual tourist.

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

Messenger
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:
preinacher_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 847-742-5100
Fax: 847-742-6103

Display advertising:
rmatteson_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039
Fax: 847-742-1407

Editorial:
ffarrar_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 217-525-9083
Fax: 217-525-9269

Subscription rates:
$16.50 individual rate
$13.50 church group plan
$13.50 gift subscriptions

If you move, clip address label and send with new address to Messenger Subscriptions, at the above address. Allow at least five weeks for address change.

Connect electronically:
For a free subscription to *Newsline*, the Church of the Brethren e-mail news report, write cobnews@aol.com.

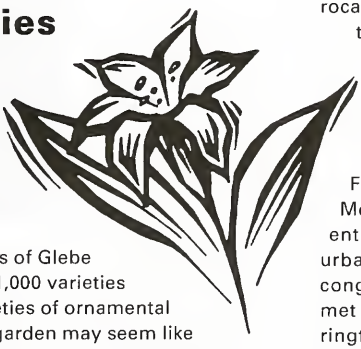
To view the official Church of the Brethren website, go to http://www. brethren.org.

Messenger is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage matter Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 17, 1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of the Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religion News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Biblical quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New Revised Standard Version. Messenger is published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Church of the Brethren General Board. Periodical postage paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing office, September 2000. Copyright 2000, Church of the Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0355.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Messenger, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

♻ Printed on recycled paper

Gary Osborne *in his garden.*

A steward and his spirituality of daylilies



The names of his varieties help explain why it is a religious experience for Gary Osborne to spend hours among the daylilies in his garden. They include Agape Love, Amazing Grace, Damascus Road, God is Listening, Gentle Shepherd, and Pray for Peace.

Gary and his wife, Carol, are the owners of Glebe Hill Gardens in Daleville, Va. Tending over 1,000 varieties of daylilies, 500 varieties of hostas, 75 varieties of ornamental grasses, 75 different conifers, and a water garden may seem like a lot of work. But after being a high school coach for 13 years and a stockbroker for 28, Gary is content to spend time working with these beautiful plants.

Gary's mother specialized in growing daylilies and irises; his father grew dahlias. Aunts and uncles owned greenhouses and raised bedding plants. So it is appropriate that Gary would spend over 30 years—the last 13 at his Glebe Hill home—cultivating these lovely flowers.

"It's great to be outside and listen to the sounds of nature," he says. "Others in my office used to work long hours. I would leave work and hurry home to work with my plants. Gardening is a part of my spirituality."

Each year more than 1,000 people visit during a three-week open house. Church groups, garden clubs, and seniors groups spend hours walking through the beautiful gardens and sensing the calmness and peace of their surroundings.

When not tending his garden, Gary, a Bridgewater College alumnus, serves on various committees focused on funding. He has also been chair of the church board and associate moderator at Williamson Road Church of the Brethren, Roanoke, Va., and is currently a trustee. Whether financial or horticultural, stewardship is a lifestyle for Gary Osborne.—**Julie M. Hostetter**

The family of God in black and white

On May 7, 2000, the Mount Pleasant church, North Canton, Ohio, visited the Love Center Interdenominational Church in Cleveland for a joint afternoon worship service.

The Love Center Church will be visiting Mount Pleasant on October 15 for a reciprocal experience. The two congregations worshiped together once before at Mount Pleasant.

Pastor Reid Firestone from Mount Pleasant (an entirely white, suburban/ rural congregation) had met Elder Paul Carrington from Love Center (an inner-city black congregation) in 1997, while Reid was interim pastor at the Brook Park, Ohio, congregation in suburban Cleveland. It was an "instant match" as these two brothers in Christ became immediate friends. They both recognize that culture and race need not be segregating factors, especially in the family of God.

The congregations enjoy uniting in worship and fellowship, and plan to continue this shared relationship on an ongoing basis.

Breaking down racial and cultural barriers. *Members of Mount Pleasant church begin an ongoing relationship with an inner-city church in Cleveland.*

LOVE + CENTER
INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHU
ELDER PAUL CARRINGTON PASTOR FOUNDER

Ken Radcliff

Nigerian churchman, educator, songwriter dies

Jabani P. Mambula, who died Jan. 18 in Maiduguri, Nigeria, was one of the prominent sons of the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria. More than 10,000 people from different walks of life were in attendance to say their final final farewell to him. A seven-day, 24-hour wake keeping praise and worship was also held in his honor. The final stage of the celebration was a packed Sunday morning worship at the EYN LCC in Maiduguri and Lassa EYN Church.

Jabani P. Mambula

Mambula is known for the 30 Christian songs he composed, one of which is number 351, "Our Father who art in heaven" in *Hymnal: A Worship Book*. He was one of the 12 founding members of the EYN Church in Maiduguri, which began in his house in 1979. That Maiduguri church now has many branches across Nigeria with nearly 12,000 members.

Jabani Mambula was ordained in 1968 with the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (EYN). Between 1979 and 1999, Mambula served in many offices, including as trustee of Northern Nigerian Educational Advisory Board, and national executive member of the Christian Association of Nigeria.

Mambula held educational, political, and government positions in Nigeria and has the traditional title of the Makama of Uba in the Margiland. He was the first indigenous principal of Waka Teachers Training College after the Church of the Brethren mission handed over schools administration to Nigeria.

At the time of his death, Mambula was completing a doctoral program in missions from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. He is survived by a wife, Martha, and eight children, among whom is Dr. Charles J. Mambula, a college professor in Massachusetts and a 1983 alumnus of Manchester College.

Back to school reminder: Remember your college students

The Antioch Church of the Brethren, Rocky Mount, Va., has tried to remember our college students in a variety of ways. College addresses with e-mail are listed in our congregational directory and we try to remember them with notes.

In the fall (about exam time) we send them each a care package with cookies, snacks, and a variety of other goodies. We have offered to send them a daily devotional guide if they desire, and they receive our newsletter monthly. In the spring we remember them with fast food gift certificates. We have recently started a post high/college Sunday school class for the summer.

We as pastors have visited Bridgewater College and Virginia Tech for a meal with our students there, and we hosted a meal here at Rocky Mount for those students in local colleges. We are interested in hearing what may work for other congregations as they support their college students.

—Melvin and Lisa Fike

iolet Phillips, left, and Helen Mitchell, *with eir double-size "crazy" quilt made of scraps.*

riends and feed sacks work ogether for good

iolet Phillips and Helen Mitchell met many years go at a sewing factory in Harrisonburg, Va. Over e years Violet sewed many pieces of clothing r her family with material from printed feed acks. She saved all the leftover pieces.

Inspired by a museum exhibit of quilts made from ed sacks, Violet and Helen began piecing quilts om the old feed sack pieces. The women and their usbands, all members of the Bethel-Keezletown hurch of the Brethren, Keezletown, Va., began oing to flea markets in search of more feed sacks.

Helen used scraps to make two "crazy" quilts, hich were purchased for $1,000. The money was onated to the building fund, which will pay for an ddition and indoor bathrooms at the Bethel church. he purchaser donated one of the quilts to the Virinia Quilt Museum in Harrisonburg, Va., and the ther to the Rockingham Historical Society in Dayn, Va., where it is on display. **—Janet Baugher Downs**

Kristin Flory

BVS Unit 239 Orientation—*Front row, from left:* Sue Grubb (staff); Joy Yoder, from Churchville, Va., assigned to Asia Pacific Center, Washington, D.C.; Tracy Stoddart (staff); Mandy Shull, from North Manchester, Ind., serving Oakland (Calif.) Catholic Worker House; Carrie Weller, from Girard, Ill., serving Bread and Roses Catholic Worker House, Olympia, Wash. *Back row:* Hope Woodard, from Roanoke, Va., serving San Antonio Catholic Worker House, San Antonio, Tex.; Sue Markey, from York, Pa., serving Mechanicsburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren; Peter Busch, from Berlin, Germany, serving Casa de Esperanza de los Niños, Houston, Tex.; Luke Croushorn, from Nokesville, Va., serving Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Elgin, Ill.; Marc Rittle, from Elgin, Ill., serving Church of the Brethren Washington Office; Monica Ardelean, from Chalfont, Pa., serving Casa de Esperanza de los Niños, Houston, Tex., Brett Shull, serving Oakland (Calif.) Catholic Worker House; Andrew Sampson, from Forest, Ohio, serving Camp Myrtlewood, Myrtle Point, Ore.; Masashi Imura, from Hiroshima, Japan, serving Cafe 458, Atlanta, Ga.

MILESTONES

Fraternity church celebrates 225 years

Fraternity Church of the Brethren, Winston-Salem, N.C., is making plans to celebrate its 225th anniversary with a homecoming Sept. 23 and 24.

The church grew out of a group of German Baptist "Dunkard" Brethren who migrated to Forsyth County, N.C., from Pennsylvania in the late 1700s. The first documented baptism took place in August 1775, and an organized Brethren fellowship has existed continuously there since then.

At the homecoming, former pastors Hal Sonafrank, Bob Jones, Cecil Fike, Paul White, and Jesse Pittman will help with the worship services. Activities will include planting a tree, burying a time capsule, singing, eating, and releasing balloons. **—Eva Hammaker**

Fraternity Church of the Brethren

General Board meets prior to Conference

Walt Wiltschek

General Board chair Mary Jo Flory-Steury and executive director Judy Mills Reimer *exchange embraces with departing staff members Ron and Harriet Finney after hearing a citation read for them.*

The General Board and its executive committee held meetings in Kansas City the week prior to Annual Conference, focusing on the theme of being "God's beloved."

Board members heard updates on Korea, a bylaws revision process, J2K, Brethren Press, and other topics. It also received several reports, including a detailed look at finances from the Centralized Resources staff. They painted a picture of a strong current financial picture but warned of challenges for the future as costs increase. The board approved 2001 budget parameters of about $5.7 million.

The board also approved signing on to the National Council of Churches' Eco-Justice Working Group's Clean Air Resolution, with a call for the Church of the Brethren to take a lead in issues like these and to continue making available resources from the Brethren Witness office.

The meetings concluded with citations to departing staff members Loyce Borgmann, Linda McCauliff, and Ron and Harriet Finney, and for six retiring General Board members. The board later reorganized during Conference, calling Mary Jo Flory-Steury (chair), Don Parker (vice-chair), David Miller, Marty Barlow, Christy Waltersdorff, and Warren Eshbach to the executive

Nigerian Bethany student speaks to many churches

Patrick Bugu, Bethany student from Nigeria, *visits with Wendell and Joan Bohrer at the hospitality booth at Annual Conference.*

Kendra Flory

Nigerian church leader Patrick Bugu has had an interesting summer during his break from studies at Bethany Theological Seminary.

Bugu, who has served as a pastor and seminary librarian in the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), has been studying at Bethany through funding from the seminary and the Church of the Brethren General Board. This summer the two agencies sent him across the denomination to talk about his home.

"I have enjoyed the fellowship of every church," Bugu said during a stop in Virginia. "We have shared our different cultural experiences, and people are interested in knowing about the EYN. People are happy to hear of the growth of the church in Nigeria."

He challenged the Church of the Brethren to tap its own potential to grow.

His journeys, which began May 20, covered many districts. He moved to a new church almost daily, and attended Annual Conference as well. He met hundreds of people, and several newspapers did articles on him.

"We were delighted to have him," said Johnnie Neterer, church board chair at the West Goshen (Ind.) congregation, where Bugu traveled Memorial Day weekend for worship and a question-and-answer Sunday school session. "It was good for us to hear about the mission there and what they're doing."

In August he returned home to see his family for the first time in a year, flying back to Africa before resuming studies at Bethany for the fall semester. Several congregations took up special offerings to help defray the costs of that trip.

Personnel changes

•**David Wine** resigned as president/chief executive officer of Mutual Aid Association effective Aug. 31. Wine has worked with MAA for the past 26 years, the past 10 as president and CEO.

On Sept. 1 Wine will begin a new position as chief executive officer of Mennonite Indemnity Inc., which has offices in Kansas City and in Lancaster, Pa. Wine will primarily work out of the Kansas City location and spend substantial time reforming Mennonite Indemnity into "a new Anabaptist insurance entity that will serve the needs of the Mutual Aid Association and 11 Mennonite organizations in Canada and the US," though details are still uncertain.

•**Roger Golden** has announced his resignation as coordinator of shared services for the Association of Brethren Caregivers effective Jan. 1, 2001. Golden has been working with the Fellowship of Brethren Homes and the Brethren Chaplains Network since joining ABC in January 1999.

•**Marilyn Nelson**, director of interpretation and plan resources for Brethren Benefit Trust, has announced her retirement effective Nov. 1.

Nelson began working with BBT in July 1991 and has served as director of the department since 1992. Prior to that, she worked 10 years with the General Board in Elgin.

•**Michael Addison** announced his resignation as director of information systems for Brethren Benefit Trust effective Aug. 11. Addison first served as controller after joining BBT in February 1998. In information systems, he oversaw numerous upgrades and new services, including eMountain Communications Internet services.

Nevin Dulabaum, manager of marketing and public relations for BBT, will serve as interim director of information systems while a replacement is sought.

WORLDWATCH

1. **South Africa.** Former South African president Nelson Mandela has been named the recipient of the 2000 World Methodist Peace Award for his "single-minded commitment to peace," according to Religion News Service. Mandela will be presented the award Sept. 21 in Cape Town.

2. **Eastern North Carolina.** Emergency Response/Service Ministries disaster cleanup efforts continued through the summer in Vanceboro and elsewhere, working at recovery from last fall's devastating Hurricane Floyd. A new Emergency Disaster Fund grant sent $20,000 to the effort.

3. **Berlin, Germany.** Seventeen Brethren Volunteer Service workers who are at projects throughout Europe held their annual retreat July 28-Aug. 3 at Haus Kreisau. BVS Europe coordinator Kristin Flory organized the event.

4. **Marburg, Germany.** Brethren Colleges Abroad marked the 5,000th student in an exchange program with the enrollment of Gregory Glidden at Philipps University in central Germany this spring. Fifteen BCA students were at Marburg for the spring term.

5. **Kansas City, Mo.** About 3,500 people gathered for the 2000 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference at the Bartle Hall Convention Center July 15-19. Details appear elsewhere in this issue.

6. **Nigeria.** The General Board will be sending another workcamp to the West African nation Jan. 13-Feb. 12, 2001. Several Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria congregations and many members there have suffered losses during conflicts between Muslims and Christians.

7. **La Verne, Calif.** Youth from four western states gathered at the University of La Verne for the Western Regional Youth Conference, held only once every four years. More than 100 attended the event, which had the theme "Peace Together a Future with Love."

8. **Fort Collins, Colo.** It was recently announced that Colorado State University will again serve as the host site for National Youth Conference. The large gathering will be held there July 16-21, 2002. Coordinators are currently being sought.

9. **Nicaragua.** An earthquake registering 5.1 on the Richter scale struck the southern part of the country July 6, damaging more than 200 homes. It was centered near the city of Masaya, according to a United Nations office. More than 40 people were injured, according to reports.

over
40
million
ears
pierced!

Paul Grout leads a discussion on consumerism *and its effect on the world while sitting with the campers in Valley Mall in Hagerstown, Md.*

Luke Croushorn

Youth **share the spirit** at Shepherd's Spring

The first youth Spiritual Life Camp, held July 2-8 at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministries Center in Sharpsburg, Md., was designed to create a focus on becoming a fuller creation in God and coming alive spiritually. It is part of the new "God-Centered Life" project.

Thirteen youth participated in the event, led by Genesis Church of the Brethren (Putney, Vt.) pastor Paul Grout, Shepherd's Spring director Rex Miller, and General Board Youth/Young Adult Ministries coordinator Chris Douglas.

Mornings included physical exercise at 6 a.m. and a new spiritual discipline each day. Off-site trips provided a highlight for many of the campers, with ventures including the Valley Mall in Hagerstown, Md., where Grout led a lesson on the Christian view of life versus a worldly viewpoint; a session on homelessness and a time of passing out bag lunches in Washington, D.C.; and a trip to a pottery shop followed by a pottery-making session.

Other highlights included sessions that incorporated videos, journaling, and meditation time, plus some free time each day. Two special worship services—a Quaker-style meeting and a feetwashing/communion service where each person was individually invited to the table—were also powerful experiences.

As the week ended, campers sang a variation of "Come Share the Spirit," a recurring song from the week, as a closing and a challenge to each other as they said goodbye: "Come share the spirit growing in you./ Live out the love that's showing in you./ Dance out your life as only you can./ Dream of the day we'll walk hand in hand." – **Stephanie Grossnickle**

BRETHRENSPEAK

> I continued to be struck by the attitude of the youth throughout the week.... Was this just an exceptional group of young people, or are we experiencing a generation hungering to know God?
>
> ***Paul Grout,*** *reflecting on "The God-Centered Life" youth spirituality camp at Shepherd's Spring that he helped lead.*

OEPA board steps up to its own challenge

At its April meeting, the On Earth Peace Assembly board of directors accepted the personal "Challenge for Peace" effort to give $50,000 during Phase I of the board's fundraising project. To date, donations and pledges from board members and staff have totaled close to $40,000, with 100 percent participation.

The donated amount represents a substantial increase from last year. The board advancement committee, led by chair Eugene Lichty, spearheaded this new fundraising effort.

During Phase II, board members and staff will be contacting other people who believe in peace education and witness and asking them to consider joining them in making a contribution to On Earth Peace. Board members are also expected to encourage their own local churches, as well as neighboring churches, to include On Earth Peace in their outreach or witness budgets.

Walt Wiltschek

California youth Crystal Hyde and Megan Kristos *join others from Western Regional Youth Conference for a sunset vespers service led by Jon Shively on Corona del Mar beach.*

The Youth Peace Travel Team, *sponsored by the General Board, On Earth Peace Assembly, and Outdoor Ministries Association, provided a key leadership role for Youth Week at Camp Eder (Fairfield, Pa.) this summer, one of many camps the team visited. Travel team member Dan Royer shares his guitar skills at an evening coffeehouse.*

BCA gives scholarships

Brethren Colleges Abroad announced three 2000-01 recipients of the Allen C. Deeter Scholarships, named for a longtime former BCA executive. All three will be spending a year abroad at one of BCA's 11 international study centers.

Lindsay Briggs of Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pa., will study in Dalian, China; Robyn Thompson of Manchester College, North Manchester, Ind., and Stephanie Adams of the University of La Verne (Calif.) will both study in Strasbourg, France. They will receive money from the scholarship fund to offset the costs of living overseas. Students were chosen based on personal essays written as part of the application process.

The scholarship will be offered annually to students at one of the six Church of the Brethren-affiliated colleges.

Elizabethtown to hold study conference

An interdisciplinary, international study conference on "The Amish, Old Orders, and the Media," sponsored by the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, will be held June 14-16, 2001, at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College.

The conference will explore professional, ethical, and academic issues in depicting and reporting about plain-dress Anabaptist and Pietist groups. Proposals for papers or for thematic sessions from media professionals and academic researchers are encouraged. The deadline is Oct. 20.

For more information, contact David Eller, The Young Center, One Alpha Drive, Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, PA 17022; or e-mail youngctr@etown.edu; or call 717 361-1470.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 11-15 National Older Adult Conference, Lake Junaluska, N.C.

Sept. 15-16 Northern Indiana District Conference, Camp Alexander Mack, Milford; **Southern Pennsylvania District Conference,** Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren, Mifflinburg; **West Marva District Conference,** Moorefield (W.Va.) Church of the Brethren

Sept. 17-Oct. 7 Brethren Volunteer Service unit 241, Angelus Oaks, Calif.

Sept. 29-30 Assoc. of Brethren Caregivers board meetings; Disaster Child Care training Oak Grove Church of the Brethren, Roanoke, Va.

Oct. 6-7 Mid-Atlantic District Conference, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Easton, Md.

Oct. 7 On Earth Peace Assembly board meetings

Oct. 8 World Mission offering

Flory

▼ Getting their nametags. *Making their way through the line, conferencegoers register for the week's activities.*

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN NON-DELEGATES

Kendra Flory

▲ Soft but firm—a symbol of God's love. *Moderator Emily Mumma tells the story of the fuzzies during Saturday evening worship and sends thousands of the fuzzies into the crowd, setting the tone for the rest of Conference.*

▲ A time for connections. *Dean Garrett, of Union City, Ohio, and Brian Flory, pastor of the Ambler (Pa.) church visit among the booths in the exhibit hall.*

Delegates reflect on changes: A short

by Ed Poling

"It's better to shoot for the moon and miss it than to aim for a skunk and hit it." These notable words were spoken on the Annual Conference floor by Jim Myer, from the White Oak congregation, Manheim, Pa. Delegates were deliberating a query on evangelism and church growth at the time. While Jim's metaphor was not quite persuasive enough to win the argument, it may well describe the intentions of the Annual Conference leaders this year.

The Program and Arrangements Committee aimed high in offering not only a much-revised schedule but also a new way of doing Conference business. Two great traditions of Annual Conference—the Tuesday-to-Sunday format and Robert's Rules of Order—saw major modifications. Haggling over parliamentary procedure in a very long weekend format seemed to be

Taking care of business: Delegates deliberate abo

Annual Conference business was kicked off with "Brethren Ministries Live," a first-time combined report of the five agencies reportable to Annual Conference.

The production used music, video, guest speakers, and drama to convey stories of the work of the General Board, Association of Brethren Caregivers, On Earth Peace Assembly, Bethany Seminary, and Brethren Benefit Trust.

Congregational structure. The most substantial item of business was a proposed new model for congregational structure.

The study committee found that nearly half the congregations responding to a survey no longer use the one board/three commission model recommended in 1964. The new model aims to be simpler, to emphasize the discernment of gifts, to integrate the deacon ministry into the structure of the congregation, and to focus on the mission and vision of the congregation.

While the document approved by the delegates replaces former polity on congregational structure, it is offered as "a flexible tool that will enable congregations to develop their own unique organizational plan, so they might better carry out their mission."

Personal evangelism and church growth. Delegates wrestled with a Virlina District query that asked for reaffirmation of the spirit and intent of the 1981 statement on Diminishing Membership in the Church of the Brethren and that its recommendations be reassigned to conform to the General

This report of Annual Conference business was prepared by the Brethren Press news team. Becky Ullom, Eric Miller, and Kathleen Campanella covered business sessions at Conference this year.

Relaxing at the General Board
nding booth. *Alan Kieffaber,*
stor of the Denton (Md.) church,
ends some quality time with
nddaughter Mikayla Genovese of
rth Manchester, Ind.

Walt Wiltschek

▲ Brethren Ministries Live. *Francisco Ramirez of St. Louis, Mo., Derek Reid of Pasadena, Calif., and Noelle Bledsoe of Troy, Ohio, portray three youth discussing the words of a strange voice that comes from their TV set.*

Kendra Flory

Flory

▲ Taking the floor. *Jim Myer of Manheim, Pa., presents his view to the Conference body on why goals should be set for evangelism.*

mat and Worshipful-Work give cause for pause

e Brethren way. But not so anymore.

Would it work? Were people ready for a ange? Most delegates I talked to looked for- ırd to it and were surprisingly upbeat. It eant one less day of doing Conference busi- ss. Could things be done more efficiently yet main relaxed enough to let the Spirit lead?

The new Saturday evening to Wednesday on format was appreciated by Ray Hill, legate from the Aughwick-Germany Valley ngregation, Shirleysburg, Pa. "I like the shorter period. The division of business and worship is good. By the end of past Conferences I was pretty much washed out. This year I can give full attention to the church business. I hope more people can attend."

First-time delegate Karen Hollinger, a young adult from the Manassas (Va.) congregation, had other thoughts. Having come to Conference frequently as a child and youth,

continued on next page

ucture, evangelism, caring for the poor

ard's new design.

After debating the best way foster effective evangelism, e delegates affirmed the the ent of the query but re- rned it to the district.

Caring for the poor. elegates adopted a state- ent that urges congrega- ns to become involved th the poor. Recommen- tions for specific actions e addressed to congrega- ns, districts, and the eneral Board.

In other business, the delegate body:

- returned two Pacific Southwest District queries that pertained to the role of district executives and guidelines for district employees;
- endorsed the World Council of Churches Decade to Overcome Violence;
- appointed a committee to plan the 300th anniversary of the Church of the Brethren: Jeff Bach, Donald Durnbaugh, Rhonda Pittman Gingrich, Richard Kyerematen, Leslie Lake, and Lorele Dixon Yager;
- responding to almost identical queries from Atlantic Northeast and Shenandoah districts, appointed Jim Yaussy Albright, Gary Flory, and Gail Erisman Valeta to update the 1977 Discipleship and Reconciliation paper;
- received as an interim report the work of a committee studying the process for calling denominational leadership, and granted the committee another year to continue its work;
- approved a 3.1-percent increase for the pastoral salary scale, as recommended by the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee.

Among reports received were a Ministry Advisory Committee skit on "Who Wants to Be a Minister?" The Program and Arrangements Committee announced the 2005 Annual Conference site as Peoria, Ill.

Election results

Moderator-elect: **Paul Grout**

Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee: **Andrew Wright**

General Board, at-large representative: **J.D. Glick**

General Board, Illinois/Wisconsin: **Carol Flory Kussart**

General Board, Northern Ohio: **Doug Price**

General Board, Southeastern: **Donna Shumate**

General Board, Western Plains unexpired term: **Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford**

On Earth Peace board: **Kenneth L. Edwards**

Association of Brethren Caregivers board: **Eddie Edmonds, James E. Tomlonson**

Bethany Theological Seminary board, laity: **Ted Flory**

Bethany Theological Seminary board, ministry: **Edward L. Poling**

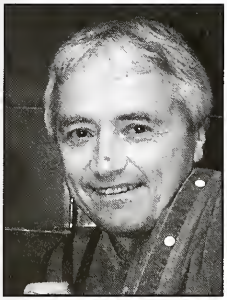
Brethren Benefit Trust board: **Richard Brandhorst** (In addition, BBT Pension Plan members elected **Ken Holderread** of Elgin, Ill., to represent churches and districts and **David Gerber** of Hanover, Pa., to represent retirement homes.)

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee, laity: **Sally Brubaker**

Committee on Interchurch Relations: **Joe Loomis**

Review and Evaluation Committee, males: **Earle W. Fike Jr., James F. Myer, Phillip C. Stone**

Review and Evaluation Committee, females: **Joan Daggett, Pat Royer**


Walt Wiltschek

Paul Grout

she realized it would be over too fast this year. "I enjoyed the old format better. There was more time to visit and fellowship. I miss the extra time. I'd stay for two weeks if I could."

For others, the schedule change created an issue of how to appropriately observe the Sabbath. First-time delegate Larry Nichol from Purchase Line congregation, Clymer, Pa., was concerned about the church doing business on Sunday. He said he enjoyed the worship and the singing. However, he said business sessions seemed out of place on this day. But the greatest discomfort came as he and his wife stood in the exhibit hall Sunday afternoon. As they gazed at the brisk sales in books and gifts, he said, "We don't believe in Sunday selling." He alluded to the story of Jesus and the money-changers in the Temple. He said his family would make its purchases on a day other than Sunday.

Most other delegates I spoke to about this Sabbath problem were not concerned. While many did wonder how to most appropriately observe this day, their comments were similar to those of Marlys Hershberger from the Roaring Spring (Pa.) congregation. "This was not a problem for me. I struggle with what the Sabbath does mean in today's world. But I found I could still celebrate the Sabbath at Conference. What we did on Sunday was not distracting to me."

While Conference evaluation forms will give a fuller picture, my non-scientific sense is that the new schedule was a welcome change for most conferencegoers—delegates and non-delegates alike.

The modification to parliamentary procedure also seemed to be appreciated. Worshipful-Work was introduced by Moderator Emily Mumma as a way to add a spiritual dimension to church business. She described it as "inviting discernment into decision-making," and allowing the Holy Spirit more intentionally into the work of the church. This was done through the use of hymns, prayers, moments of

BRETHREN
Catherine Ullery
Kendra F

silence, and small-group personal sharing times. Ellen Morseth, of the Worshipful-Work organization headquartered in Kansas City, served as spiritual director t the delegates, describing her job as "payi attention to the heart of the meeting." Robert's Rules of Order was still followed in handling motions and in voting.

Karen Chronister, an elementary scho teacher and delegate from Cedar Grove congregation, New Paris, Ohio, was quit positive. "I love it. I love the bell," she said, referring to the small handbell that called meetings to order and ended quiet prayer times. "I hate the gavel. I liked the hymns, the singing, the sharing. I use these kinds of things in my teaching. It helps to create a cooperative atmosphere.

Jack Karpenske, from the Lynchburg (Va.) congregation, took a longer view. "I find it helpful at moments of tension, suc as when a person wants to speak and is turned away at the microphone." But he felt this kind of thing always has gone on informally at past Conferences through th sensitivity of good moderators. "I don't need to be reminded of the Holy Spirit revealing the truth in us. It will happen."

Beth Miller, a young adult delegate from the Waynesboro (Pa.) congregation, apprec ated a more user-friendly format. "It gave time to process papers in a different way. W had more time to reflect spiritually and to interact with other delegates." This interaction was crucial to Beth as she was often confused by parliamentary procedure. Fort nately, on the last day she sat next to an

**aking a joyful
ise.** *Catherine
lery of Olympia,
ash., lends her
ice to a chorus of
ildren who
ovided special
usic before Tuesday
ening's worship
rvice. The children,
ected by Marie
tty, invited the
ngregation to join
on some of the
ngs.*

Eddie Edmonds

Doing the wave. *Everyone attending Wednesday morning's closing worship received white handkerchiefs to wave at the end of the service, recalling the way missionaries were sent out in years past and sending out modern-day Brethren in service today.*

Kendra F

Discerning the mind of Christ. *Linda Davis of California shares her thoughts concerning the query on "Personal Evangelism and Church Growth."*

kperienced delegate who "really went out of is way to help explain procedural things."

Not everyone agreed that Worshipful-/ork was led correctly. On the closing day f Conference during an open-mike ses-on, one delegate questioned how it was one. "We didn't really do Worshipful-/ork," she said. "People weren't allowed get up and offer a scripture or a song."

Even with the diversity of opinion mong the Conference delegates on this ew style of handling business, most emed to welcome a parliamentary style at was more worshipful in spirit.

While it is clear that the Annual Confer-ice leaders didn't "hit the moon" in eeting everyone's expectations with the new schedule and business format, they wisely didn't aim too low. Jerry Greiner focused on some of the intangibles that good planning can never foresee. The delegate from the Mechanicsburg (Pa.) congregation met two junior high youth who seemed to be having the time of their lives. One was a boy who was more than excited about singing the Conference songs. The other was a girl who was creating a scrapbook of her Annual Conference experiences. With that kind of youthful enthusiasm for the Brethren gathering in Kansas City, we all can take heart.

Edward L. Poling is pastor of the Carlisle (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren. He attended his first Annual Conference in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1948, when he was less than one year old.

elegates by the numbers

tal Conference endance was 3,458, mpared to a total of 3,528 Milwaukee, Wis., last ar, 3,509 in Orlando, Fla., 1998, and 3,325 in Long ach, Calif., in 1997.

tal delegates (from 23 tricts): 883

rcentage attending out 1,355 delegates possible: percent

anding Committee mbers included in delegate count: 43 (includes past moderator)

Congregations represented: 655 (61 percent of 1,073)

Youngest delegate: age 16 (female)

Oldest delegate: age 88 (female)

Average age (also mean age) of delegates: 52 years

Percentage of **male delegates**: 54 percent

Percentage of **female delegates**: 46 percent

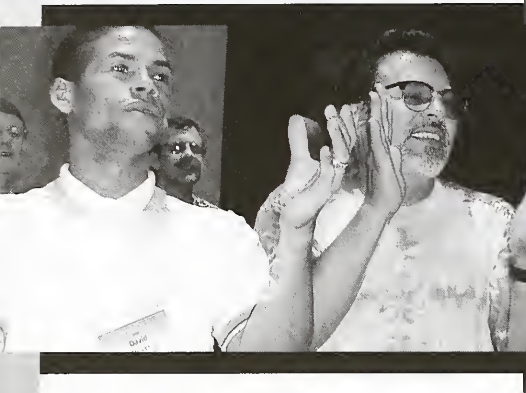
Racial/ethnic backgrounds: No records kept

Districts with significant increases in delegate attendance due to location (compared to average of past five years): Western Plains, Missouri/Arkansas, Northern Plains, Southern Plains

Districts with **significant decreases** in delegate attendance due to location (compared to average of past five years): Atlantic Southeast, Idaho, Mid-Atlantic, Shenandoah, Pacific Southwest

This information was compiled with help from Dan Rensberger, the volunteer director of delegate registration at Annual Conference, and Vicki Rensberger, who assists him.

Eddie Edmonds



Celebrating the global church. *David Reyes, left, moderator of the Church of the Brethren in the Dominican Republic, and Gilbert Romero, pastor of the Bella Vista church in California, were among many who rejoiced at the Cross-Cultural Dinner.*

Kendra Flory

◀ **On the strings.** *Ben Godfrey of New Paris, Ind., brings a worshipful spirit to the Brethren Ministries Live report.*

Gifts make worship work

Bringing God close at Annual Conference

by Erin Matteson

Worship class in seminary brought a potpourri of definitions for the subject at hand. Of all the offerings found there, worship as "the work of the people," has always stuck close to me.

Worship in the Church of the Brethren at its best has always meant God's people making offerings of praise, prayer, and proclamation together as a whole community. Whether in silence, song, or the spoken word, Church of the Brethren folk bring forth honor and glory to God as different members of the community bring forth a variety of special gifts. In the end,

Ministers' Association hears
'Preaching in a Webbed World'

"Interactive Preaching: Parabolic Preaching in a Webbed World" was the topic for the post-Annual Conference Ministers' Association meetings in Kansas City. Thomas H. Troeger, from the Iliff School of Theology, was the guest leader. He illustrated the possibilities and power of the spoken word and freely interspersed music and hymns throughout his presentations and preaching.

Troeger, a noted hymnologist, stated that the Church of the Brethren has the best hymnal in the English language. He added that it includes six hymns written by him!

Michelle Grimm, former Annual Conference music coordinator, served as pianist and music leader for the event. Her knowledge of the hymnal greatly aided in the worship experiences. Frances Townsend, pastor of the Root River congregation, Preston, Minn., and this year's chair of the Ministers' Association, was the convener.

Tim Peter, pastor of the Prairie City (Iowa) congregation, was elected to the executive committee and will serve as secretary this coming year. He joins the new chair, Donna Ritchey Martin of the Grossnickle congregation, Myersvville, Md.; Michael Hostetter of Williamson Road congregation, Roanoke, Va., vice-chair; and Dan Barnum-Steggerda of Daleville, Va., treasurer.

Allen T. Hansell, director of ministry, serves as the General Board staff liaison to the executive committee.

There were 185 ministers, spouses, clergy-clergy couples, and students at the Wednesday afternoon session. Fifteen children participated in childcare activities coordinated by Linda Miller of McPherson, Kan. An offering of $1,236.30, the highest amount gathered in recent memory, was received for the Ministry Assistance Fund.

Acknowledging some pre-conference concern about the timing of the sessions, executive committee members were pleased with the number of people who attended this first post-conference professional growth event. Because there were no other meetings scheduled during this time period, district executives and General Board staff were also able to attend.

—Julie M. Hostetter

▲ Voices of love. *Three youth d the Conference congregation n singing "Love as I Have Loved u." They helped write additional rses to this theme-related song composed by Keith Hollenberg.*

Kendra Flory

An ensemble of about 50 trombones *adds a festive flavor of fanfare to Saturday's opening worship.*

together, those gifts aid in the seeking d finding of God close at hand for all, ose to the heart of all.

Annual Conference worship in its totality as a fine example of Church of the ethren worship. So many gifts came gether to bring the best opportunity

continued on next page

acticing what he preaches. *Thomas oeger of Denver, Colo., brought the ednesday morning message, then ared his insights on preaching to the inisters' Association on Wednesday and ursday. He emphasized weaving word d music together.*

Kendra Flory

Expression through movement. *Sally Carlson Crowell of the Washington (D.C.) City Church of the Brethren ministers through interpretive dance, which was used in worship several times during the week.*

Passion from the pulpit. *Conference Speakers focused on various aspects of the theme. Speakers included, from top: former Kansas City mayor Emanuel Cleaver; Belita Mitchell of Los Angeles, Calif.; and Joel Nogle of Gettysburg, Pa. Moderator Emily Mumma and theologian Thomas Troeger also spoke.*

Kendra Flory

Kendra Flory

Kendra Flory

possible for all God's people gathered to worship.

It was an opportunity to recognize themselves in God's presence, to respond, and to accept the call to go out to serve.

Below are just some of the gifts that were offered from the larger church that made worship at Annual Conference this year rich for all:

- Childrens's packets assembled beforehand by Congregational Life Team members for each time of worship, that children might be intentionally invited into the themes of worship and our heritage. Each night families were invited to pick up the large zip-lock bags filled with creative activities. Children found themselves feeling more included in worship than ever.
- Variety in music, using differing styles of contemporary and traditional hymns, various instruments, and unison and harmonic singing. This allowed each person to have the best chance of "praying twice," as Augustine claimed happens when one sings.
- The continued use of sign language and translators of the spoken word to other languages aside from English. The presence of translators serves to remind us all of how diverse is the body of Christ. It calls us to ask what our responsibility is to assure all are able to worship fully.
- Liturgical dance and drama that remind us of just how many different mediums are used to communicate God's word for us.
- The sharing of personal testimonies in worship, that God might be known and celebrated through the open sharing of life stories that illustrate how individuals have experienced a living, interactive, calling Christ.
- The sharing of the eucharist, that we might deepen and strengthen our connection, commitment, and commonality as the larger Church of the Brethren body gathere
- Creativity shared in soft fuzzies flying and in white hankies waving, that a woma named Carol might remind us of love with something simple and handmade. The handkerchiefs reminded us of how we sent off missionaries years ago, and sent off on another from Conference to go be mission- aries in our own small corners of the world
- Inspiring, challenging words from gifted preachers. Emily Mumma told us, "Love is not defined but is experienced through actions and attitudes." Joel Nogl said, "We have never looked into the eyes of anyone who did not matter to God."

From Belita Mitchell we heard that "it i one thing to know about a congregation i East L.A. and another thing to worship and work with them." She said that "we must know God not just intellectually, bu personally as we continually develop a per sonal relationship with him." And part of the way that happens is when we break through the "pesky little 'isms' that fragment the fabric of our faith."

Emanuel Cleaver preached that "faith i the word of God is a laboratory course, no a lecture course," and that "we have yet to do what as Christians we are called to if w can just move outside the margins."

From Thomas Troeger we heard that "when a liberal and conservative carpente are working together and arguing, and we remember Jesus' words, 'I'll be praying fo you,' I don't think he is praying for the conservative or liberal theologian to win. I think he is praying, 'Please, let them finis the house!'"

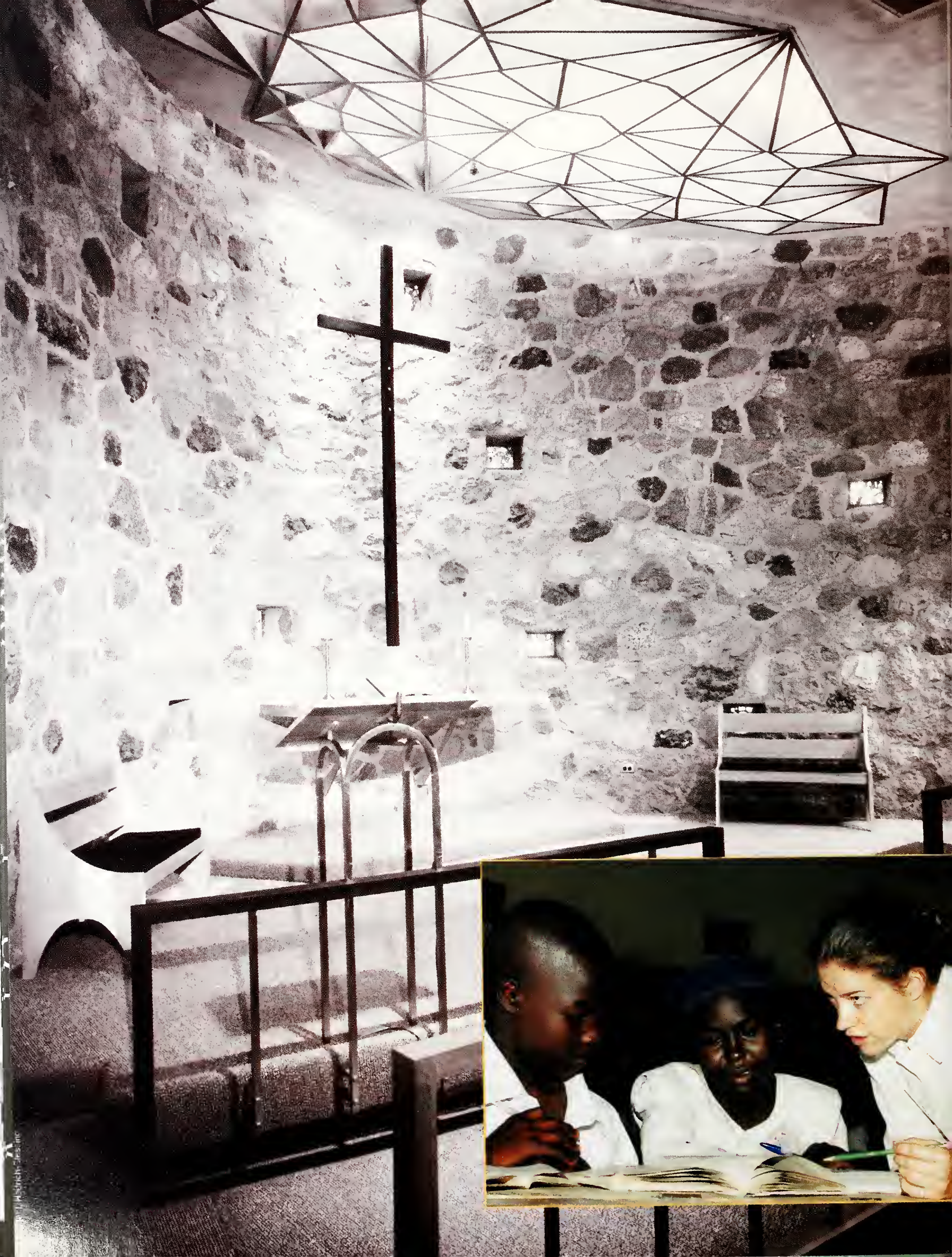
Thanks be to God, for the vision of those who planned and led us in worship and music, for the willing hearts of all those who shared of themselves, for the privilege of being in worship in Kansas City with Brethren from throughout the country and world.

Thanks be to God for the fruitful "work of God's people" gathered in that place, that brought our steadfast and loving Creator close at hand for all.

Erin Matteson is pastor of Faith Church of the Brethren, Batavia, Ill.

HOW WONDROUS THE *grace*

Church of the Brethren General Board Report 2000



Hedrich-Blessing, Inc.

Cover photo by Jeff Lear

OH, HOW WONDROUS THE GRACE

A favorite hymn of mine first appeared in *The Brethren Hymnal* in 1901: "Oh, how wondrous the grace of our God." Familiar as the words are, I am still profoundly moved at each singing of the refrain, "Oh, how deep are the riches of grace, how great is the love Christ has shown."

The song is one of a score of hymns on grace appearing in *Hymnal: A Worship Book.* Each number reminds us of the legacy that is ours in what the apostle Paul terms "the gospel of God's grace."

Opposite. **Chapel, Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill., home to the denomination since 1899.**

■

Lower left. **Students, Mimi Copp at new EYN Secondary School in Nigeria.**

Merv Keeney

Grace is "truly our last best word," Philip Yancey declares in *What's So Amazing About Grace?* "It contains the essence of the gospel as a drop of water can contain the image of the sun." In a culture that is so graceless, so characterized by *ungrace*, Yancey sees the world thirsting for grace in ways it does not even recognize.

This report on grace in action is dedicated to you who are both partakers and dispensers of God's grace. I thank you for your partnership with the General Board in the work of grace—"laborers together with God." And I urge us as a church to press on in proclaiming to the world at home and afar, "Oh, how wondrous the grace of our God."

Judy Mills Reimer

—Judy Mills Reimer, Executive Director

Jim Tomlinson

Left. **For Brethren youth, ventures in spiritual discernment: first National Youth Conference, now the God-Centered Life program.**

Below. **A central ritual of the Brethren community is lifted up in remembrance and renewal.**

THE LANGUAGE OF GRACE

What are the virtues that come to those in whom the word of Christ dwells richly? Drawing on Colossians 3:12-17, Marva Dawn in *A Royal "Waste" of Time* writes:

"Gentleness and patience, humility and thankfulness, compassion and kindness, love—these are totally irrelevant in the culture that surrounds us. But they are the language of grace, the culture of faith, the characteristics of the kingdom."

The Love Feast
Compiled by FRANK RAMIREZ

They are values that give rise to the General Board's forming a network for introducing Worshipful-Work in church business proceedings, assisting youth in the quest for spirituality, recounting the vibrancy of the Brethren love feast observance, and investing 10 years and nearly a million dollars in the translation of the Bible into the Nuer language.

The apostle Paul counseled the Colossians, "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus" (3:17).

In the name of the Lord Jesus: the language of grace.

Walt Wiltschek

Above. Translation team leaders Lester Boleyn, Tut Wan Yoa at launching of the Nuer Bible, Mading, Sudan.

Right. Worshipful-Work invites prayer and praise in the midst of General Board business.

CRO

Left. **Intern Daniel House, mentor Richard Sisco at Ministry Summer Service orientation.**

■

Inset. **Congregational Life Team's five area coordinators with executive Glenn Timmons.**

■

Right. **Sebastian Reyes is greeted by his wife, Yudiana de la Rosa de Reyes, at ordination and licensing of first 17 Church of the Brethren ministers in the Dominican Republic.**

■

Lower right. **New membership studies for Brethren youth and adults.**

Walt Wiltschek

THE GIFT OF GRACE

One of the momentous discoveries in life is to notice the grace that is around us. To see healing and forgiveness, goodness and mercy enacted before our very eyes. To recognize grace as God's gift of love in our lives and in the lives of others.

It is love undeserved. It is love freely offered. It is love that invites each person to take a place at the table in God's family.

To humbly accept the gift of grace may prompt one to enter into church membership study, to test one's calling in Ministry Summer Service, to train through the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, to nurture congregational growth and vitality. Or to respond in myriad other ways, yet step by step striving to live more fully into the presence of God.

But no matter whether our role is ministerial or lay, no matter whether we are long or new into discipleship, the challenge is to sing of God's amazing gift, to lift the grace notes high.

David Radcliff

heart soul and mind

Phil Grout

Left. **Alex Kirculescu, Stan Noffsinger of Emergency Response/Service Ministries discuss refugee placement.**

Lower left. **"A quiet place to get things done": New Windsor Conference Center.**

Inset. **At Habitat project is Frank Shank, one of hundreds of Brethren youth who volunteer each year for work assignments.**

Right. **Gail Long assisting Kosovar refugees in Macedonia.**

THE WORK OF GRACE

Phil Grout

In *Streams of Living Water,* Richard Foster tells of the literacy teacher to the masses, Frank Laubach, noting in his journal, "Of all today's miracles, the greatest is this: To know that I find Thee best when I work listening, not when I am still or meditative or even on my knees in prayer, but when I *work* listening and co-operating."

Many find that growth in grace, in Christlikeness, happens foremost in solitary, interior ways, a matter of the heart. Others, like Laubach, find growth in grace is best nurtured when work and prayer are blended into one.

Whether in worship or in workcamps, in community or in solitude, in crisis response or in tranquil retreat, the dynamic for growing in grace is co-operating with God, participating with God, heeding the God at work within you and in your faith community.

The apostle Paul's counsel to the church at Philippi still stands: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work within you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:12b-13).

Randy Miller

Phil & Louise Thei

Left. **The Dinka-Nuer Peoples Peace Conference of the New Sudan Council of Churches brings hope for a new generation.**

◆

Inset. **In its 20th anniversary year Disaster Child Care is extending to new frontiers.**

◆

Right. **Rachel Gross, architect of the General Board's Death Row Support Project.**

◆

Lower left. **Students at Brethren High School, Valsad, India.**

Scott McAllpine

HEALING GRACE

"Culture gives us one measure of humanity—too often a highly individualistic and grasping one. Christian spirituality gives us entirely another—a compassionate and communal one."

Lorna Grow

Writing in *Heart of Flesh,* Joan D. Chittister zeroes in on qualities important to Brethren for 300 years. *Compassion* and *community* mean opting for forgiveness over revenge, reconciliation over retribution, empowerment over control, resistance over aggression.

Through advocacy of the Death Row Support Project, development of Disaster Child Care, overtures to disparate Christian bodies in India, and encouragement to ethnic factions in Sudan to resolve age-old animosities at the peace table, Brethren through General Board ministries are giving a new face to compassion and community.

Or is it an old face—regard for the *other*, the stranger, the one different from us, the poor and the weak—all who figure so centrally in the beatitudes of Jesus.

Christy Waltersdorff

Howard Roye

Left. **Ludovic St. Fleur, pastor of First Haitian Church in Miami.**

Lower left. **Logo of the World Council of Churches.**

Inset. **Robert Edgar, general secretary, and Andrew Young, president, National Council of Churches of Christ.**

Right. **A deforested hillside in Honduras opens acreage for beans but further destabilizes a fragile ecosystem.**

GRACE UPON GRACE

Grace upon grace, blessing upon blessing: God's freely given love streams out to the world.

How can we accept the plenitude of God as our own never-ending, inexhaustible birthright? How can we affirm that everything we have received—*everything*—is a gift from God? How can we realize that only by channeling our blessings, sharing them with others, do we avoid bottling up the flow of goodness?

"From the fullness of the Child have we all received, grace upon grace" (John 1:16). In the mystery of the Word becoming flesh, God's love for the world is revealed: one gift of Jesus Christ, sent as grace, sent *with* grace.

Through our partnership with other cultures and other countries, in concert with sister churches engaged in common mission, in our care for God's creation, the Church of the Brethren extends the compassionate and redeeming work of God.

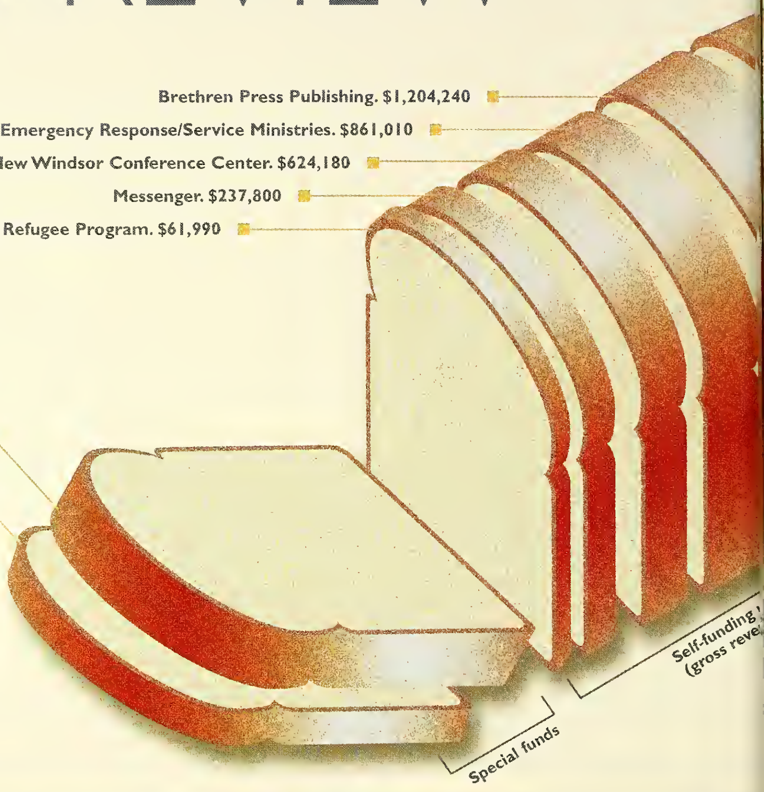
That's how God's love works: We receive, and thus we give; we give, and thus we receive.[1]

Howard Royer

---

[1] The above text adapted from 2001 One Great Hour of Sharing theme materials.

1999 IN REVIEW



Ministry. Nurtures church leadership
Bethany Seminary and Brethren Academ
Sponsors ministry training. Works with
district staff, pastors, and camps. Admini
grants, pastoral assistance. **$328,570**

Brethren Press Publishing. $1,204,240

Emergency Response/Service Ministries. $861,010

New Windsor Conference Center. $624,180

Messenger. $237,800

Immigration Refugee Program. $61,990

Emergency Disaster Fund. $729,000

Global Food Crisis Fund. $344,000

The financial picture is solid for this second full fiscal year of the General Board's new design.

The Board's General Ministries Fund is supported primarily by congregational giving ($3,464,240) , which this year was up by 0.7 percent (compared to a decline of 1.6 percent the previous year). Total income exceeded expenses by $150,900, even after caring for special transfers such as eliminating the deficit of Brethren Press ($192,950) and funding annuity payments ($140,000).

Income from bequests far exceeded expectations, covering the $500,000 budgeted and also increasing the bequest quasi-endowment fund by $1,643,300. The interest from this growing fund will support General Board ministries over the long term.

In addition to the General Ministries Fund, which is supported primarily by donations, the General Board operates several "self-funding" ministries that receive income from service fees or sales. All but one showed improvement from the previous year. Brethren Press finished the year with $11,390 of income over expense. *Messenger* was not able to cover its expens-

General Ministries Fund
(net expense)

Brethren Volunteer Service. Orients and places volunteers in projects focusing on peace, justice, human need, and the environment. **$356,580**

Executive Director. Administers work of the General Board. Coordinates Leadership Team. Heads ecumenical representation. Oversees human resources. Spiritual guidepost for staff and General Board ministries. **$671,740**

Brethren Press Communications. Fosters identity, unity, and vision. Publishes *Messenger, Agenda, Source, Newsline, Yearbook*, and the website. Interprets program, conducts news service. **$266,150**

Brethren Witness. Enlists individuals and congregations in study and action on peace, justice, and environmental concerns. Manages Global Food Crisis Fund and Washington Office. **$169,370**

Congregational Life Ministries. Provides a variety of congregational leadership development opportunities, including Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and provides options for congregational redevelopment work. **$872,790**

Funding. Offers financial resource counseling on stewardship and estate planning. Oversees direct mail campaign. Distributes outreach, stewardship, and offering emphasis packets. **$513,400**

Global Mission Partnerships. Guides international church planting, development, leadership training, and theological education. Coordinates global relief, disaster, refugee, and material aid responses. **$606,520**

Treasurer/Centralized Resources. Handles finances of General Board and Annual Conference. Manages and maintains General Board facilities, technology, and archives. Covers telephone, technology, postage, support services for all program areas. **$1,225,820**

es by $25,380, but net assets from the previous year covered most of the shortfall. The New Windsor Conference Center and Emergency Response/Service Ministries ended the year with income of $48,300 and $135,110, respectively, with some of this income from a property sale. Even without the property sale, the Conference Center made a significant turnaround from a negative to a positive year-end.

Net 1999 expenses for the General Ministries Fund were $5 million. Total gross revenues that include the self-funding units were $10.1 million. In addition, $729,000 in grants were made through the Emergency Disaster Fund and $344,000 through the Global Food Crisis Fund.

For full financial data, see the General Board's auditors report.

What's in a number?

While words and pictures are one way to review the scope of the General Board's ministries in 1999, numbers are important too.

The numbers represent the gifts of thousands of individuals. Every dollar is a choice to invest in the worldwide ministry of the Church of the Brethren.

The numbers also represent resources purchased and used, conferences attended, articles pondered, service given—faith lived out day by day.

Each day we receive a measure of God's grace, and each day we are given the opportunity to share that grace with others. Each day we are fed, and each day we have the opportunity to share our bread with others.

Grace upon grace is ours to receive and to give.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (*Eph. 3:20-21*)

Paul Jeffrey, CCD

Church of the Brethren General Board
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120

iecing the church together

onference conversations with special people

by Tavia Ervin

**valk up and down the aisles of the
hibit hall at Annual Conference on Sat-
day afternoon.** The displays are set up.
ows of booths with leaflets and signs and
ychains and lots of free stuff. Some of the
essages and literature I see make me say
men" under my breath and others irritate
d even anger me. I pass by the "movers
d shakers" as well as the "rank and file"
I wander from table to table. I feel alien-
ed one minute and embraced the next.
I see a friend from my days on our district
ard and we stop to talk in the arts area.
e has been working on the Annual Confer-
ce quilt; the shortened Conference week
allenges the quilters to get it finished by
ednesday afternoon. We catch up on each
ner's lives—she tells me about some health
oblems she and her husband are coping
th and I tell her about the challenges of my
ork as a chaplain. I feel blessed just to know
r and to have this time to talk with her.
hind us the women quilt—finishing the
ork that was started by many different sis-
s and brothers as separate pieces.

**nual Conference brings with it some
xiety for many people, myself included.**
seems to me that there is this overall feeling
urgency among us. There are only a few
ys in which to gather together all of the
eces that make up our own unique individ-
l lives in the church and to connect them in
vay that will make them stronger for the
nnection. There is only so much time to
e and hold and visit with those sisters and
others we see so seldom. There is only so
uch time to hear what other Brethren are
nking and doing and envisioning—
hether it is in keeping with our own vision
the church or is a challenge to it.

**nere are good buys at the SERRV
hibit.** I get into a conversation with a
stor from an inner-city church. What is
thinking about as we gather in Kansas
ty? He longs for us to spend our time
focusing on our vision and mission for the Church of the Brethren. Different people have different visions of what the church should be, and though these may be vastly different, they are all driven by the desire to be faithful to Christ. Focusing on vision will lead us beyond ourselves to welcome and include everyone. We sit together in the concession area and talk for quite a while. As the day winds down, the quilting stops. The work will continue tomorrow as more people arrive to participate.

On the second day of conference I find myself in the hospitality area of the exhibit hall. I am impatient with sitting in the business session, and I am thirsty. With a cup of ice water in hand I take a seat across from a woman with a kindly face. She is Olivia T. Gandy from the Battle Creek (Mich.) Church of the Brethren. We strike up a conversation. She is waiting for word from her husband Ted, who has been missing since last evening when he went to find a hotel room for the two of them. She tells me with a smile that many people are looking for him. "I have all confidence that our Maker is in control." Olivia is 85 years old and smiles a lot. "At Annual Conference you meet special people who you've known for years."

The following day I think of her words as I sit across from a man the same age as Olivia whose eyes fill with tears as he tells me about how painful it is to come to Annual Conference. "So many people I have known for years are gone now."

As Olivia and I sit together, her pastor and friends from her church stop by periodically to check on her and to bring her news about the search. Her face lights up as they approach. She talks to me about her life in the church. "The Church of the Brethren has many fine qualities that I would hate to lose. We have a concern for moral issues that I think the world needs," she says.

I finish my cup of water and gather my things together to go as a family friend sits down with Olivia to talk with her. She is

Nevin Dulabaum
Kendra Flory
Keith Hollenberg

People remain at the center of Conference. *Top, participants in the BBT Fitness Challenge 5K race; center, Delbert Blickenstaff of Oakland, Ohio, converses with Sarah Leatherman Young of Littleton, Colo., at the Association for the Arts exhibit; bottom, Jen Henry of York, Pa., enjoys a snack during senior high activities.*

Kendra Flory

Keith Hollenberg

Eddie Edmonds

So much to do, so little time. *Above, both women and men donate much time to prepare quilts for the annual Association for the Arts' quilt auction held on Tuesday afternoon. At left, Rosanna Dell join ssenior high youth who helped to create a banner based on the Annual Conference theme; bottom, Harold Moyer of Roanoke, Va., and Kathryn Valencourt Erisman of Mineral Creek, Mo., prepare to leave following Wednesday morning's worship service.*

smiling as we say our goodbyes and I wish her well. I find out later that Ted has been found safe and sound. I stroll past the arts exhibit again and notice with satisfaction that the quilters are working again, reinforcing the pieces they have been given. Their work during this Conference week always yields something beautiful and useful.

The days go by quickly. I go to luncheons and dinners; I listen to many speakers. I hear a leader of the church say that elder members of the church should "step aside" and let the young people take over leadership of the church. The next day I hear an eloquent presentation of ways that the church can make our marginalized elderly feel useful and wanted again. The youth of the church poke at our awareness of the effects of United States trade sanctions and we are picketed by an anti-gay hate group outside the Convention Center.

On Wednesday morning I watch them prepare the quilt for auction. It is beautiful as usual—bright and multicolored and pieced together with love. Each square unique and made even more special in its connection to the others. An amazing piece of work to complete in a few days' time.

Tavia Ervin is a member of First Church of the Brethren, Springfield, Ill., and is chaplain at Pleasant Hill Village, the Brethren home at Girard, Ill.

The children

Learning peace and lov

by Eddie H. Edmond

When we think of Annual Conference, we see images of business sessions wi lines at the microphone, worship servic that include spirited preaching and singing, and that all-important treat, ice cream. There is, however, another group that attends conference with an equally important agenda. These are the children of delegates and conferencegoers from across the denomination.

Ranging in age from babies through grade five, this group of attenders looks t leadership to provide an interesting and entertaining mix of activities. Even with the shortened schedule, this year was no different, with many activities planned.

Barbara Flory, "early childhood services" coordinator and a member of the McPherson (Kan.) Church of the Brethre led a team of caregivers that designed activities around the Conference theme, "Love as I have loved you." She emphasized that the early childhood services we to be more than babysitting. Her team worked hard to provide not only a safe place, but a learning environment as well.

A highlight for the kindergarten through grade two children was a day tha included trips to the Kansas City zoo and Kaleidoscope. Located at Hallmark Card World Headquarters, Kaleidoscope provided a time of fun activities and capped day that taxed the physical resources of children and adult volunteers alike. The children also learned through creative presentations of the work of Trees for Life

And the children shall lead them. *Children had many activities to keep them busy during the week. Above, from left, children in the grades 3-5 activities joined in excitedly during a session on 'Clowning Around'; Marlys Best of Hutchinson, Kan., plays with Joseph Wittrein and Kaylie Penner; and Rita Murphy entertains a group of children in the pre-kindergarten childcare area. Below, Sean Leininger-Dickason takes a break to play with a dinosaur.*

onference
ısas City

d Heifer Project International.
Catherine Strahn Frantz, a member of
e Topeka (Kan.) congregation and coor-
nator of activities for this age group,
id most of the activities were planned
th the Conference theme in mind.
Catherine added that she was pleased
the willingness of adult volunteers to
sist with the program.
Carolyn Barr, a member of the Osage
ıurch of the Brethren in McCune, Kan.,
d this year's coordinator for the chil-
en's activities for grades three through
e, listed two things that made Confer-
ce memorable for her. "One was our
sit to The Peace Pavilion, and of equal
ıportance were the adult volunteers who
ade it all happen. In particular two
uth, desiring to be in service to the Con-
rence, volunteered to help with
ildren's activities instead of participat-
g in senior high youth activities."
At the Peace Pavilion the children par-
ipated in role-playing that demonstrated
ays that conflict and differences could be
ttled peacefully. Taught that when con-
ct became evident to "Stop - Think -
ace," the children found tools that will
of use to them for years to come.
Other visits were made to the Nelson-
kin Museum of Art and Science City.
ith over 50 hands-on adventures and
ree theaters, the excitement of this field
p was exceeded only by the children's
ırticipation in Tuesday night's worship
rvice. There the combined children's
ıoir led enthusiastic singing joined by the
onference participants.

Another highlight of this year's Conference were the children's activity packets provided at each worship experience. Over 150 children participated in the evening worship services, which were made more meaningful to them by the activity packets. The packets were assembled and provided by the Congregational Life Teams of the General Board staff. Jan Kensinger, CLT coordinator for Area 1 and one of the coordinators of this project, said that the packets were intended to reach out to the children attending Conference and to illustrate, in simple ways, the theme of each worship service. Julie Hostetter, CLT coordinator for Area 3, added that many conferencegoers had asked to take a packet to their home congregations in hopes of encouraging this same connectedness at home.

A central inspiration from all the leadership involved with the children's activities, from the 12 to 15 young Brethren in the early childhood stage to the more than 145 children who participated in the kindergarten through fifth grade group, could be found in a passage from the book of Proverbs. "Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray" (Prov. 22:6).

Eddie Edmonds is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren and currently serves as pastor of the Moler Avenue Church of the Brethren in Martinsburg, W.Va. He is the father of a teenage son who has participated in Conference age-group activities over the years. Eddie was elected at this year's Conference to serve on the Association of Brethren Caregivers board of directors and was a member of the news services team.

Kendra Flory

Ideas and eloquence

Some notable dinner speeches to digest

Much of the story of Annual Conference is tucked away in speeches at the various optional dinners and special events sponsored by interest groups. Here are reports about what a few of those speakers had to say.

by Fletcher Farrar

Kendra Flory

> “The voice within me asks, What must God think when the church people are divided and stand in judgment of each other? ...the question is, What is the mind of Christ?”
>
> **—Judy Mills Reimer, General Board executive director**

In her “report on the state of the church,” General Board executive director Judy Mills Reimer spent much of the time recalling stories to celebrate the success of the denomination’s mission and ministry.

In her address to the MESSENGER Dinner at Annual Conference, she recalled the voice of Maria in the Dominican Republic, who had received a new house built by Church of the Brethren dollars. “If your church had not responded when we lost our homes because of Hurricane Georges, we would still be homeless today.”

In the center of her positive, upbeat speech, Reimer voiced several “cautions” and challenges facing the church as well.

“The voice within me asks, What must God think when the church people are divided and stand in judgment of each other? Whether that division is on biblical interpretation, issues surrounding racism, sexuality, denomination name change, God language, or who does what in the church—the question is, What is the mind of Christ?

“The voice within me asks how dysfunctional are we, the Church of the Brethren, when we depend on each other as agencies of the church to provide services to each other for a fee? . . . In our size of denomination it is a must that we get along. Yet how healthy is it when we feel slighted in the service given by partnering Church of the Brethren agencies?

“The voice within me asks, What does it mean today with so many different agencies holding out their hands for dollars from the same donors? . . . Will the church need to set rigid boundaries and guidelines? Can we continue to cooperate or will the funding climate become more and more competitive?”

Robert W. Edgar, the former congressman who recently took over as executive director of the National Council of Churches of Christ, spoke at the Ecumenical Luncheon sponsored by the Committee on Interchurch Relations. Edgar said his challenge goes beyond reforming the troubled NCC which, he said, “got some mold around the edges and began to stumble on itself.”

The task at hand, he said, is to recognize the “kairos moment” of the year 2000 as a time to “reignite the ecumenical movement.” His vision is to unite evangelicals and Catholics with mainline Protestants, not by getting those groups to join the NCC, but b building a “new and larger table.” Though h was vague about how this would work, Edgar hinted there might be a new name fo the ecumenical organization, or different forms of membership in the association.

“The first thing we need to do together is to address the needs of the poor,” he said. A churches can agree to fight poverty together he said. The NCC has begun an intitiative called “Mobilization to Overcome Poverty,” which will name “achievable” goals.

“God is calling us in the urgency of now to make a difference on Planet Earth,” Edgar said. He quoted a speech b Robert F. Kennedy: “Few will have the greatness to bend history, but each of us can work to change a small portion of the events, and in the total of all these acts wi be written the history of this generation.”

> “Jesus’ call is a call t be about verball proclaiming the goo news. [If we don’t we’re living in sin.”
>
> **—Gerald Crouse, missionary in Dominican Repub**

Kendra Flory

harles Ilyes, pastor of the Springfield hurch of the Brethren, Coopersburg, Pa., ave an old-fashioned sermon at the Brethren evival Fellowship Dinner. He spoke to the ifficulties of Christian life and ministry, using aul's image of running a race and recalling is own experience of planting strawberries a straight row by looking forward, not back.

"Satan wants to trip us up," he told the udience of nearly 300. "He will do every- ing possible to make us look back. But ang in there. Don't give up. When we see esus face to face it will be worth it all."

t the Monday evening dinner spon- ored by the General Board's Global lission Partnerships office, Rebecca aile Crouse shared songs in Spanish and oke enthusiastically of their family's ission work in the Dominican Republic.

When Gerald Crouse took the micro- one for the second half of the presentation, e celebrative mood turned somber. He said ominican Christians have influenced him to e more evangelistic, something he did not arn during his years growing up in the hurch of the Brethren, or even later as a istor. "We are a non-evangelistic church," e said, citing recent statistics on the denom- ation's declining membership.

"Jesus' call is a call to be about verbally oclaiming the good news." If we don't actice "verbal" evangelism, Crouse said, Ve're living in sin."

rmer moderator Charles Boyer, pastor of e La Verne (Calif.) Church of the Brethren oke at the luncheon of the Brethren Men- nite Council for Gay and Lesbian oncerns. He spoke of the need for the urch to be more loving and more inclusive. e said those who favor inclusivity for homo- xuals need to learn to love their critics.

"The place for some of us heterosexual rsons to begin is to remember that not o many years ago we held some beliefs ld by the current critics of BMC. Our arts have been moved and softened and e have become more inclusive. It can ppen to others as it happened to us."

Boyer said he can remember debates in e Church of the Brethren about inclusion persons of non-European ancestry in ngregations and summer camps. He can member debates about whether divorced rsons should be accepted in leadership, or whether women should be ministers.

"As we have become more inclusive of persons of color, divorced persons and women in leadership," he said, "we are becoming more inclusive of transsexual people."

Boyer concluded: "We are Church of the Brethren members who are going to help this little denomination become more loving, more accepting, and more just.... We've all got a place in the Kingdom of God!"

Noemí de Espinoza, executive president of Christian Commission for Development, in Honduras, spoke at the Sunday evening Outreach Dinner, sponsored by the General Board's Brethren Witness and Global Mission Partnerships offices.

At the conclusion of her speech, she addressed volunteers who come to Honduras to help: "What's important isn't how many cement blocks you can lay in a day or whether you can speak Spanish, but rather whether you can offer a ministry of presence in a world where poverty isn't romantic, whether you can listen with humility and embrace a poor person, whether you can open yourself up to hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ in some new ways.

"What we've heard from many of the volunteers is that their visit to our country has amounted to a conversion experience, in which they've experienced the Holy Spirit blowing in powerful ways through the lives of the poor, and where their experience of that spirit leads them back home to question who they are and how they are a church in the middle of a world where our lives and stories are increasingly interlinked.

"We are in this together. We are equals, we are companions, we are the family of God, of a God that is not the God of imperialism, but rather the God who during Hurricane Mitch was to be found suffering and dying in the neighborhoods and villages that washed away, who was present there with us in the mud the storm left behind. It is that God who has brought us safe this far, and the God who will lead us home, hand in hand, sister and brother, south and north, into a new heaven and new earth where we shall live in peace and be unafraid."

Kendra

Angels among us. *Rosa Maria Martinez Lindo gave out corn-husk angels, made by a Honduran women's group, to participants in Tuesday's "Un-luncheon." Participants gave up their lunch for the day and instead donated that money to the Global Food Crisis Fund.*

> "What we've heard from many of the volunteers is that their visit to our country has amounted to a conversion experience, in which they've experienced the Holy Spirit blowing in powerful ways through the lives of the poor."
>
> **—Noemí de Espinoza, president of the Christian Commission for Development, in Honduras**

THE GOSPEL VISITOR
VOL. 9 -11 1859

THE HOUSE OF HERITAGE

Brethren Historical Library and Archives is a vital link to the past

by Kendra Flory

If one could lift the veil and see the past: see the pious Eight in 1708 at Schwarzenau; ...see the gradual transformation to the church of to-day; and learn from the actors themselves at each stage of development the wonderful story of the church's growth, the duty of recording it would be a rapturous pleasure.... But Death has sealed the lips that could have spoken and stilled the hand that might have written. Fragments alone remain. These are scattered over a wide area in two continents."

In his book, *A History of the German Baptist Brethren in Europe and America*, the first substantial historical account of the Brethren, Martin Grove Brumbaugh expressed in 1899 the truth of a recorded history hard to come by.

However, in the last 64 years some of these surviving fragments have been discovered, donated, gathered, and formed into what is now the Brethren Historical Library and Archives (BHLA), located in the basement of the General Offices in Elgin, Ill. It is the largest collection of Brethren materials in one place.

A program of the General Board, the BHLA strives "to keep alive the Brethren faith heritage" by fulfilling the goals in its purpose statement, including to collect and preserve Brethren-related materials, to give historical perspective to the mission of the church through counsel and publication, and to provide a centralized Brethren research center.

BHLA began in 1936 when descendants of Elder J.H. Moore—a noted writer, editor, and churchman among the Brethren—donated his library to the General Mission Board. A year later the Joint Historical Commission was organized as the first advisory and policy-setting agency for the program.

Since its start, the BHLA has maintained a dual function of library and archives—collecting and preserving publications, records, and other materials of the Church of the Brethren, one of the six major branches of the Brethren tracing their roots back to Schwarzenau. Also collected are books and periodicals published by the other five groups—Old German Baptist Brethren; Brethren Church; the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches; the Dunkard Brethren; and the Conservative Grace Brethren Churches, International.

As the official repository of the Church of the Brethren, the BHLA archives maintains Annual Conference records dating back to 1856, as well as records from early Brethren organizations such as the General Mission Board (1908-1947). Extensive collections of district and congregational materials are kept, including the records of numerous districts and congregations, district and congregational directories, and district minutes and newsletters. The archives also house biographical files of Brethren individuals and papers of national, regional, and local Brethren leaders. Among the items of this manuscript collection are the journal of Alexander Mack, Jr., and the Dan West papers.

In the last 64 years some of these surviving fragments have been discovered, donated, gathered, and formed into what is now the largest collection of Brethren materials in one place.

In its book collection the BHLA has nearly 9,000 volumes, including books from the Sauer and Liebert presses of Germantown and the Ephrata Cloisters Press, more than 550 genealogies, over 400 Bethany Theological Seminary dissertations, and a 1539 German New Testament—the oldest book in the collection. The BHLA has also collected more than 200 newsletters from different Brethren organizations, more than 1,600 pamphlets, and more than 100 Brethren periodical titles, totaling over 1,750 bound volumes.

Other collections include photographs and negatives totaling over 30,000 images, and nonprint media—video cassette tapes, reel-to-reel tapes, 16 mm films, slide sets, individual slides, filmstrips, phonograph records, and cassette tapes, including tapes of Annual Conference business sessions since 1949.

The best source of genealogical information at BHLA is the obituaries that were published in Brethren periodicals from 1851, when the *Gospel Visiter* began, through 1964 when the name of the *Gospel Messenger* was changed to MESSENGER. Almost all of these obituaries have been indexed by BHLA. A gradual project over the past 11 years was to index the obituaries and archive the index on a CD, which is now available for purchase from Brethren Press.

Though it is not a museum, the BHLA also has a small collection of artifacts. The most significant piece of this collection is the Henry Kurtz organ that was built in 1698 and is the oldest playable pipe organ in the United States.

The collection has grown continually since BHLA opened. Brethren records of all kinds are always being collected. Brethren Press donates copies of all its publications. And Brethren authors, as well as other contributors, often donate to the organization. But in its earlier years, the program lacked staff and

continued on next page

KEN SHAFFER,
KEEPER OF THE ARCHIVES

Kendra Flory

Ken Shaffer, director of BHLA, *enjoys the challenge of tracking down information.*

Now in his 12th year as director of Brethren Historical Library and Archives, Ken Shaffer is responsible for collecting materials, seeing that they are cataloged and processed, and integrating them into the library and archives. In this administrative position he also plans the BHLA budget and writes reports to the General Board and Annual Conference.

But what Shaffer enjoys most about his job in the archives is the challenge of tracking down information for those inquiring about Brethren.

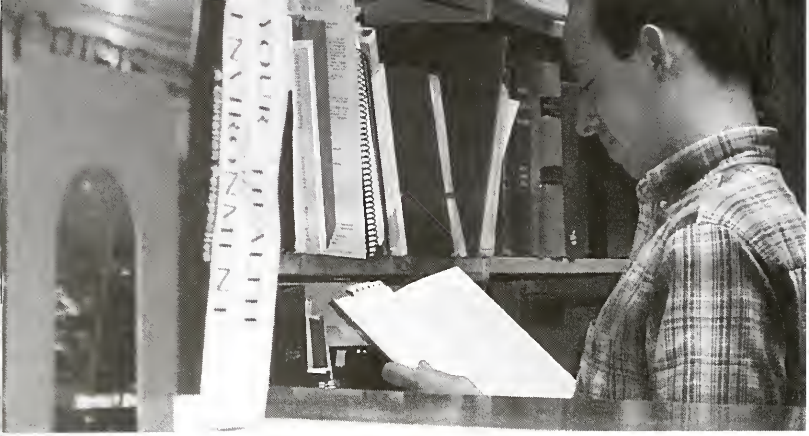
"It's interesting work," he says. "The kinds of materials you work with and the kinds of questions you get, they make you think."

Shaffer says one of the few frustrations of his job is constantly changing technology. For example, 16 mm reels are unusable unless an old projector is available and working, or the reels are converted to videotape, which will also become obsolete someday. "Everything's only a passing medium," Shaffer says. "It's hard to maintain the equipment of older media, and it gets expensive to keep converting materials with ever-changing technology."

Originally from Denton, Md., Shaffer received his undergraduate degree in philosophy and religion from Bridgewater College in 1967, and he earned a master of divinity degree at Bethany Theological Seminary in 1970. Several years later he took a job at Bethany in which he spent part time in the acquisitions library. There he discovered his strong interest in library work. Changing his plans to earn a doctorate in religion, Shaffer worked toward a master's in library science at Northern Illinois University, which he received in 1983.

Shaffer has always enjoyed history as well. While most seminary students took Brethren history their second or third year, he couldn't wait that long and took it during his first year of classes.

In addition to his work in the archives, Shaffer meets with the Brethren Historical Committee and the Germantown Trust and served as book review editor for *Brethren Life and Thought*.—**Kendra Flory**



Kendra Flory

Daniel Greenawalt *recently completed service in the archives as a Brethren Volunteer Service worker.*

funding, so the responsibility for archives was shared between various offices in the Brethren Publishing House. Materials were not processed or well-organized.

"Initially the archives wasn't processing and organizing the items," says Ken Shaffer, director of BHLA. "So much was kept, but they didn't create a path to find specific items."

The program began to shift in the late 1970s when the first full-time coordinator was hired and the space allocated to BHLA was doubled. Eventually a reading room/processing area and a records storage room were installed. Another full-time position was added in the mid-1980s, but was recently eliminated as part of the General Board redesign.

The program depends heavily on Brethren Volunteer Service workers and other volunteers whose donated time is often used for processing archival materials. All materials that come to BHLA go through this archiving process, which includes weeding out duplicates and other unwanted materials, writing a descriptive inventory (a record of contents in each set of materials), and filing the information on computer.

Volunteers also help with answering the hundreds of resource questions directed at BHLA. In 1999 BHLA responded in writing to 263 requests for information, 273 phone requests, and 232 requests made by General Board employees. One hundred people made personal visits to use the archives.

"I don't know that we could handle more phone, letter, and e-mail requests than we're getting now," Shaffer says. "I'd like to see more people come on site to use the archives."

Shaffer says the archives are used for many different reasons. They are used by Brethren and others looking for information about Brethren beliefs and practices. For example, in 1996 a man of Grace Brethren background came to research the topic of nonresistance for his dissertation. And, in 1993 a man researching the civil rights movement came to explore the materials of Ralph Smeltzer, a Brethren who served as a mediator in Selma, Ala., during the marches of the mid-1960s.

Genealogists and those who write history are BHLA's primary users, inspired to search for roots and reasons of their heritage. Don Durnbaugh wrote that "history is to the group what memory is to the individual" and that like a person reflects on past experiences to decide how to act in the future: "His judgment is tempered by past successes and failures," so must a group look to its history and heritage for understanding of what, how, and why it came to be in order to be fruitful tomorrow.

Shaffer hopes Brethren will take advantage of the resources available in BHLA. And, like Brumbaugh prayed for his book of Brethren history, may it "quicken our love for the church and, under the blessing of God, be the means of doing some good for the Master."

Kendra Flory is a member of the McPherson (Kan.) Church of the Brethren and will graduate from Bridgewater College in December. For nine weeks she served as an intern at Brethren Press through the Ministry Summer Service program. Her interest in Brethren history and artifacts grew stronger through her work at the McPherson Museum where she did the research and design for a historical display of McPherson College.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
BENEFIT TRUST
FULL-TIME STAFF OPENING
AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 1, 2000

Director of Communications
Located in Elgin, IL

A management position that provides overall leadership of the department responsible for promotion, public relations, and member resources.

Broad areas of responsibility include:

- Communicating the BBT mission and programs.
- Creating program resources for BBT plan members and clients.
- Promoting BBT programs and services to prospective customers.

Lead the department in the research, design and image represented in all written, visual and electronic resources that support the agency's communications efforts and assure a consistent image of competence for the organization.

Coordinate special public relations projects as needed (i.e. Annual Conference report to delegates, booth design and set up, insight session coordination that promotes the BBT and its ministries). Manage staff. Develop, monitor, and approve budgets and program priorities for the department.

Qualifications: The successful candidate will blend creativity in communications with marketing knowledge. BS or equivalent in Journalism, Public Relations, Communications, Marketing or a related discipline with a minimum of five (5) years experience in a related position. Strong written and verbal communication skills, a reader-friendly writing style. Internet literate. A high level of proficiency in PageMaker 6.5; Quark Express, and Photoship in a Windows environment (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).

A self-starter with a positive attitude, capable of developing a service-oriented department. Familiarity with the Church of the Brethren and its values helpful.

Interested and qualified persons may apply by faxing letter, resume and salary history to 847-742-0135 or mail to Claudia Sheets, Brethren Benefit Trust, 1505 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120, Direct phone: 847-622-3389.

The Love Feast

Compiled by FRANK RAMIREZ

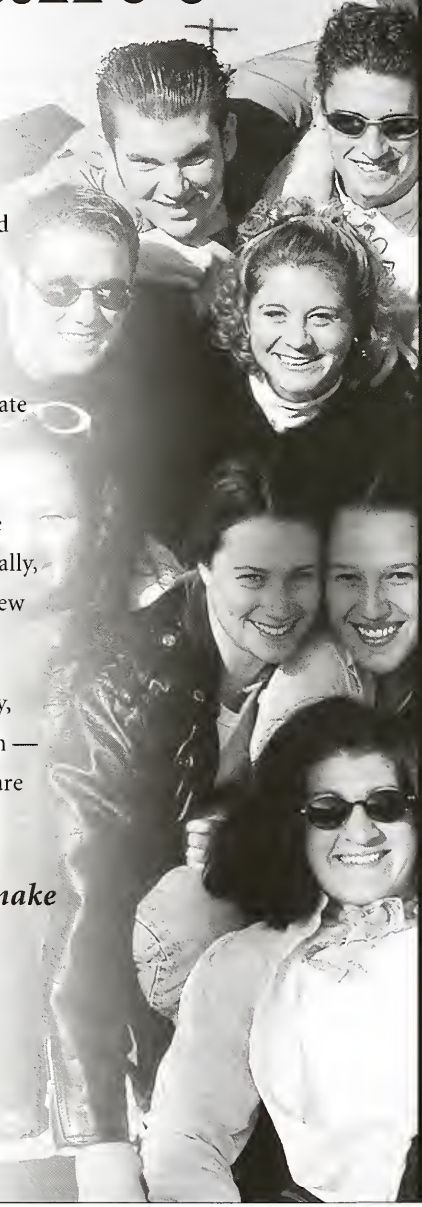
The love feast is based on a simple premise: disciples do as Jesus commands. We examine our lives, wash feet, eat a simple meal, and take communion. Through stories, memories, scriptures, and photographs, the love feast is remembered and renewed, extending the invitation to all to come to the Lord's table.

Here is a glimpse into the corporate memory of this central ritual of our faith. A perfect gift for new members, deacons, church leaders, and all who find their Christian home with the Brethren.

$19.95 paperback #8208
$49.95 limited edition hardcover #8240

Brethren Press
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, Illinois 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712
fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

Acceptance



At Brethren colleges all are welcome!

We represent an exciting mix of backgrounds, faiths, nationalities and experiences. Our students challenge, respect, and celebrate each others' differences.

A Brethren education strives to educate and develop the whole person with Christian values, high standards of excellence and integrity. Students are challenged to think deeply and critically, and gain the confidence to explore new ideas.

Within a caring, learning community, students have the freedom to flourish — and talents, aspirations and dreams are turned into reality.

A Brethren education will make a difference ... in YOU!

For more information about
Brethren colleges, visit our website:
www.cobcoa.org or email:
cobcoa_gb@brethren.org
or call 1-800-323-8039

Brethren Colleges Abroad
North Manchester, Indiana
(219) 982-5238

Bethany Theological Seminary
Richmond, Indiana
1-800-287-8822
ext. 1810

Bridgewater College
Bridgewater, Virginia
1-800-759-8328

Elizabethtown College
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania
(717) 361-1400

Juniata College
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania
1-800-526-1970

University of LaVerne
LaVerne, California
1-800-876-4858

Manchester College
North Manchester, Indiana
1-800-852-3648

McPherson College
McPherson, Kansas
1-800-365-7402

Church of the Brethren Collaboration on Admissions

COBCOA

> "When told how she had addressed God, Joan was surprised. She had not realized she'd called God Mother. Somehow, her desperate need of maternal comfort overshadowed her usual pattern of praying to God the Father."

New Messenger design

It looks like the "gray old lady" has been outfitted with new Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes—and they are very becoming to her. The new Messenger design has a freshness and integrity that was long due to someone of her age. The gentlemen callers (prospective subscribers) will surely begin to take renewed interest. Everything from her new bonnet (nameplate) to her gusset (the new page width) to the cut of her dress (the layout and design) put a new lift into her step. She is bound to have the neighbors gossiping. (Good for her!) Congratulations to all involved.

Ronald E. Keener
Gilbert, Ariz.

God is like a mother

Several years ago, a young mother, Joan, was desperate. She was ill. Her husband had gone to Europe on a business trip. Her young son was suffering severe asthma attacks. It was night. Frightened, she telephoned Anne, an experienced single mother who shared a deep faith in God. "May we come stay with you tonight?" Joan asked.

At Anne's home when the frightened mother had her ailing son comforted and finally asleep, Anne expressed their need. "I think we ought to pray," she said.

In the sanctuary of prayer, Joan, out of her desperation, uttered these words, "Mother God, please help me." Anne inwardly noted this unusual form of address to God because Joan had never before used it. Like most Christians at that time, she regularly prayed to the Father God.

Years later, the two women recalled that troubled night. When told how she had addressed God, Joan was surprised. She had not realized she'd called God Mother. Somehow, her desperate need of maternal comfort overshadowed her usual pattern of praying to God the Father.

In spite of the patriarchial emphasis in the Bible rising out of the periods in which these books were written, some stunning feminine imagery for God emerges. In addition to picturing God in masculine terms of warrior, judge, lord, and father, the writers of scripture employed these unexpected metaphors:

THE OLIVE TREE Community

The Olive Tree has been a source of food, fuel, furnishings and oil for anointing for over 6,000 years. Because it matures very slowly—one tree can live for over a thousand years—parents and grandparents plant olive trees for their children, leaving a valuable legacy for the next generation.

Bethany's ***Olive Tree Community*** joins together a special group of friends who have a similar commitment to the Seminary. Through deferred and estate gifts, they are leaving a legacy for future generations to nurture the leadership needed for our children, grandchildren and new children in the Church of the Brethren.

We invite you to become a member of the ***Olive Tree Community.*** When you make your will, purchase life insurance, start a retirement plan or review your current estate plan, why not consider including ***BETHANY*** as a beneficiary for part or all of the proceeds.

Contact Lowell Flory at 800-287-8822 for more information.

-COME HOME to NEW WINDSOR-

Volunteer...and Support a Unique Brethren Ministry

The New Windsor Conference Center is located at the lovely, historic Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD. Many fond memories are formed here among the beauty and peace of these 26 acres.

As a Volunteer Hostess or Host, you will have the opportunity to share in this ministry by helping to provide Christian hospitality and conference services to our guests in a cozy and homey atmosphere. You will experience the rewards of service as you interact with groups and individuals and witness the true meaning of our motto: "a quiet place to get things done."

On days off, an added benefit is our convenient access to Baltimore, MD, Lancaster, PA, Washington, DC and other interesting places with opportunities for cultural, recreational and religious activities. Numerous Brethren churches are available in the area.

We provide a furnished apartment and meals along with a small stipend. You'll need to bring maturity, detail orientation, an outgoing personality and genuine interest in providing excellent customer service. Come join us for a week, a month or longer, if you'd like. A few opportunities are still available for this year and applications are also being accepted for 2001. **For more information, call or write Elaine Hyde, Conference Coordinator, PO Box 188, New Windsor, MD 21776-0188; 1-800-766-1553 (toll-free).**

QUITE POSSIBLY THE

PERFECT JOB

For a personal satisfaction unmatched, join the Funding team of the General Board.

1) Sincerely thank individuals and congregations for their support and prayers.
2) Share information and excitement about the world-wide ministries of the church.
3) Listen to concerns, financial goals and needs of members and friends of the church.
4) Give basic counsel in estate planning tools and gift giving strategies.

Now searching for the right individual who feels called to join the General Board staff in this ministry effort. Can be full time, semi-retired, or retired with time and/or love for the work of the church to share. Must live in and be familiar with the culture of the Northeastern U.S. Must be an informed, active member of the Church of the Brethren, and willing to travel throughout that region.

For more information and application form contact:
Elsie Holderread at
800-323-8039 x 259 or e-mail
eholderread_gb@brethren.org

LETTERS

God is like a mother eagle (Deut. 32:11, 12).

God is the mother who bore (Deut. 32:18).

God was a wet nurse to Israel (Num. 11:12).

God is like a midwife who takes the child at birth and lays it on the mother's breast (Psa. 22:9).

God is like the head woman in a household (Psa. 123:2).

God is like a nursing mother (Psa. 131:2; Isa. 49:15 and 66:12, 13).

God is like a woman in childbirth, gasping and panting (Isa. 42:14).

God is like a lifelong nursemaid. (Isa. 46:4).

God, like a loving parent, teaches her child how to walk (Hos. 11:11-4).

God is like a mother bear, robbed of her cubs (Hos. 13:8).

Even Jesus referred to himself, the Son of God, as a brooding mother hen, gathering her chicks to herself (Matthew 23:37).

If we overlook these feminine images in scripture, we fail to recognize the wholeness of God's nature, manifest in both masculine and feminine.

Besides these images of the feminine God, another passage of scripture reminds us of the dual nature of God. Genesis 1:27 states, "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Humankind was created male and female in God's image. That's what God is like—male and female.

God is not male or female. God is both male and female. We have no words to express that. Actually, God is infinite, so none of our words can convey complete understanding of this divine eternal being.

So, in the past, biased by culture, we have used "he" and "his" when referring to God and addressing God only as father, unconsciously neglecting the feminine manifestations of the deity. This omission limits our understanding of the Creator-Sustainer-Nurturer of life.

Perhaps if we would abandon ourselves in trust, out of our desperate need, like Joan, we too might find ourselves praying sometimes "Our Father," and sometimes, "Mother God, please help me."

Jean Lersch
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Christian Family Practice group is seeking a family physician to join our growing practice. We are located in North Central Indiana, near Goshen. We provide obstetrics with many deliveries done at an Amish Birthing Center near Shipshewana. Opportunities for short- or long-term missions. Independently owned (six physicians & one PA) and committed to remaining sensitive to the needs of the local community. Option to buy in. Contact Steve Wendler, Administrator, at Middlebury Family Physicians, PO Box 459, Middlebury, IN 46540. Day telephone: 219-825-2900 Evening: 219-825-7506.

Travel with a purpose. Visit the "Cradle of Civilization," March 16-29, 2001. Featuring: crossing the Red Sea, visiting Mt. Sinai, cruising on the Sea of Galilee, cable car ride to Massada. Visit Petra, the rose city, Jerusalem, The Holy Land, St. Catherine Monastery on Mt. Sinai. Full breakfast and dinner throughout. For information write Wendell and Joan Bohrer, 8520 Royal Meadow Drive, Indianapolis, IN. 46217. Tel/fax 317-882-5067. E-mail rdwboh@aol.com.

Walk where Jesus walked with Pastor Roger Forry November 13 thru 20, 2000. This is a pilgrimage of a lifetime! Breakfast and dinner are included daily. Bus transportation is provided from the Somerset, Pennsylvania area or passengers can meet the group at J F K airport for their journey to Israel. Visit this historical area from a Christian perspective with an emphasis on Protestantism. Professional bilingual guide service. A bargain price for an excellent trip! Call 800-462-1592 for details.

Position available: Full-time additional staff needed at Goshen City Church of the Brethren, Goshen, IN. Person will assist in areas of community outreach, young adult and youth ministries, contemporary worship, and Christian education. Bachelors degree minimum. Contact Northern Indiana District Office, (219) 773-3149.

Travel to the White Continent—Cruise to Antarctica—including visits to Argentina and Uruguay, January 7-20, 2001. Optional visits to Chile and Iguassau Falls available. For information please write to J. Kenneth Kreider, 1300 Sheaffer Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

Double-wide Mobile Home- excellent condition. Located in an established mobile home park in Sebring Florida two miles from the Sebring CoB. Two bedrooms, one and a half baths. Fully furnished including bed linens, dishes and cooking utensils. 1,000 square feet of living space including beautifully furnished Florida room. Electric heating and cooling system. Carport and new large shed and washing machine. Price $13,950. Contact Fred Ikenberry, 108 W. Rainbow Drive, Bridgewater, VA 22812. Phone (540) 828-0195.

The Association of Brethren Caregivers is seeking a full-time Coordinator of Shared Services to assist the Executive Director with programming and services to the association and the Fellowship of Brethren Homes, a ministry with Brethren retirement communities. Ideal candidates will demonstrate the following qualifications: working knowledge of the mechanisms and processes which impact services to the aging; experience in retirement community management; understanding of Church of the Brethren heritage; bachelor's degree in a related field; proficiency in interpretation and consensus building; comfort providing leadership in an environment with diverse interests; excellent communication, organization and computer skills. The position, located in Elgin, Illinois, is available on January 1, 2001. Direct inquiries or send letters of application with résumé and three references to Steve Mason, Executive Director, ABC, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120.

Holy Land Tour. Visit Israel, the land of the Bible, with optional extension to Egypt. Departs March 12, 2001 from Dulles Airport, VA. Visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth and many more Biblical cities and sites. Cruise the Sea of Galilee. First-class hotels; breakfast and dinners included. Travel insurance available. For information write Pastor Lerry Fogle, 1013 Mercer Place, Frederick, MD 21701, or Email lwfogle@juno.com

Providing Superior Care for Your Peace of Mind

EVERYTHING YOU WANT
IN A SERENE YET CONVENIENT COUNTRY SETTING.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING IN CROSS KEYS VILLAGE
- HARMONY RIDGE APARTMENTS OR COTTAGES

DINING - PLANNED ACTIVITIES - TRANSPORTATION
ON-CAMPUS BANKING & MEDICAL FACILITIES

ASSISTED LIVING CENTER
- SHELTERED NEIGHBORHOOD
- PRIVATE ROOMS WITH BATH
- HEALTH CARE CENTER
- HOUSEKEEPING

EVERYTHING YOU NEED
- SUPPORT SERVICES
- HOME HEALTH SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE (ALZHEIMER'S) UNIT
- CROSS KEYS SUBACUTE CENTER
- ADULT DAY SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE UNIT
- NURSING CARE
- RESPITE CARE

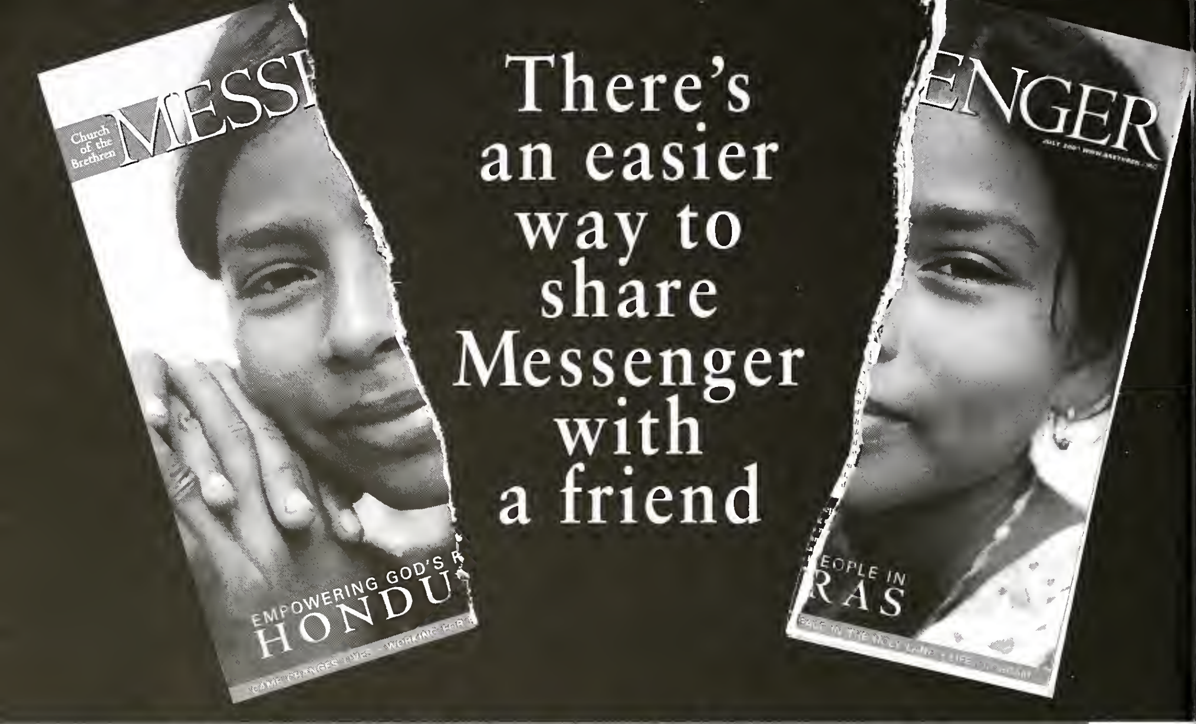
MEDICARE/MEDICAID APPROVED

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Christian care since 1908

2990 CARLISLE PIKE - P.O. BOX 128
NEW OXFORD, PA 17350-0128
1-888-624-8242
WWW.BRETHRENHOME.ORG

The Brethren Home Community


Church of the Brethren
MESS
ENGER
There's an easier way to share Messenger with a friend
EMPOWERING GOD'S
HONDU
EOPLE IN
RAS

First-time subscribers can get a full year of MESSENGER for just $6.75, less than 62 cents an issue.*

Introducing Messenger...
...at half the price!

Introductions are sometimes awkward.

But those who get to know MESSENGER find it is a great way for Christians to expand their local Christian witness by becoming acquainted with the global mission and ministry of the Church of the Brethren.

More congregations are learning that providing new or prospective members with a subscription to MESSENGER introduces them quickly to the exciting work of the Brethren.

This introduction just got easier. Because it is half-price. Please help introduce MESSENGER to those in your congregation who don't receive MESSENGER.

For details call 800-323-8039, ext. 247.

* The only requirement for the introductory rate is to subscribe through a local congregation.

MESSENGER

Forms for submitting Turning Points information are available by calling Peggy Reinacher at 800-323-8039.

New members

Antioch, Rocky Mount, Va.: Jimmie Conklin, Michael Emmons, Nathan Emmons, Katie Melson, Eve Milton
Arcadia, Ind.: Bonnie Brehm, Steve Curnutt, Teri Curnutt, Janae Curnutt
Beacon Heights, Fort Wayne, Ind.: Michael Ball, Jessica Creath, Lynn Creath, Rebecca Creath, Randy Creath, Matthew Degitz, Amanda Miller, Joel Peterson, Becky Smith, Luke Sprunger, Josh Wysong, Sam Wysong
Brothersvalley, Berlin, Pa.: Nancy Burkett, Rebecca L. Hay, Gregory A. Reiman, James R. Turney, Jr.
Chambersburg, Pa.: Shawn Adams, Adam Bricker, Michelle Cerveris, Kyle Keath, Heather Marlin, Brett Myers, Ryan Plyler, Tara Schuchman, Kurt Varner, Ashley Wengert
Cloverdale, Va.: Cara Wine, Amie Wine, Randi Wines, Sarah Stata, Clara Nelson, Debbie Russell
Community of Joy, Salisbury, Md.: Martin Hutchison, Sharon Hutchison, Angie Drehmer, Bob Drehmer, Nathaniel Drehmer, Stacy Habig, Ken Mahan, Doug See, Sally See, Becky Ruby See, Daryl See, DiAnna See, Judy Urrasio, Belinda White, Melody Wischoff
Denton, Md.: Claire Berkey, Colleen Berkey, Allison Holsinger, Rebecca Holsinger
Dundalk, Baltimore, Md.: Iris Dollard, Jeremy Kimble, Susan Kimble, Marlene McKinney, Amanda Sobus, Terrie Sobus, Ann Sue True, Natassia Walker
Elkhart Valley, Elkhart, Ind.: Pierce Atkins, Jane Atkins, Dusty Earnhart, Ryan McBride, Rosalie McBride, Laura Miller
First Central, Kansas City, Kan.: Judy Burr, Esther Kangeri, Benson Mwihaki, Jane Smith
Fraternity, Winston-Salem, N.C.: Ruth Dunn, Thomas Hanks, Adele Hanks, Troy Warner, Sarah Beckner, Barry Tilley, Mary Tilley, Barry Tilley, Jr., Jess Tilley, Kevin Villafane, Katherine Haynes, Laurel Washabaugh, Daniel Johnson, Robert Ricci, Nancy Ricci, Lindsay Ricci, Ruby Miller, Jason Method, Tina Method
Friendship, Linthicum, Md.: Ron Fincham, Greg Hickerson, Cheryl Hickerson
Gortner Union, Oakland, Md.: Alvin Lewis, Azelma Lewis
Guernsey, Monticello, Ind.: Prue Logan
Heidelberg, Reistville, Pa.: Mark Eberly, Rachel Eberly, Steven Eberly, Marie Eberly, Thomas Eberly, Dana Eberly
Highland Avenue, Elgin, Ill.: Dick Durrant, Pat Durrant, Doug Leatherman, Mary Leatherman, Lindsay Garber, Joseph Gibble-Keenan, Shannon McNeil, Matthew Meyer, Cassie Skweres, Parker Swanson, Amanda Turbyfill, Douglas Bradshaw, Jane Bradshaw, Jenny Bradshaw, Susan Jasica, Pat Owen, Leland Fecher, Alfred Brauch, Joel Davies, Jeanne Davies, Adam Hackley, Nancy LaPlante
Logansport, Ind.: John Gaumer, Cheryl Ulery, Greg Ulery, Viola Ulery, Donetta Warner
Lone Star, Lawrence, Kan.: Phillip Metsker, Debora Rawlings
Middlebury, Ind.: Tonja Elliott, Catherine Groover, Bob Schultz, Jean Schultz
Modesto, Calif.: Juan Adrover, Thelma Adrover, Falina Sanguinetti
Mount Carmel, Milam, W.Va.: Larry Ray Graham, Tiffany Alisa Phares, Travis Adam Phares

Wedding anniversaries

Adolph, Lyle and Myrtle, Worthington, Minn., 50
Archer, Roy and Bonnie, Sebring, Fla., 50
Bentz, Clark and Doris, Johnstown, Pa., 50
Bryant, James and Jacquita, Wichita, Kan., 50
Burch, Doug and Naomi, Bradford, Ohio, 50
Chaney, Bert and Ina May, Wheatland, Mo., 50
Child, Don and Edith, Sebring, Fla., 65
Coffman, Richard and Doris, Harrisonburg, Va., 50
Davis, Rodney and Dorothy, La Verne, Calif., 50
Deardorff, Paul and Mabel, Chambersburg, Pa., 70
Dickey, Kenneth and Martha, Silver Lake, Ind., 55
Dull, Norlyn and Gwen, La Verne, Calif., 60
Everest, Ned and Lois, Goshen, Ind., 50
Frantz, Dean and Marie, New Haven, Ind., 60
Harbaugh, James and Lois, Huntingdon, Pa., 50
Harshbarger, Raymond and Mary Ellen, McVeytown, Pa., 50
Hermanson, Art and Lois, Kingsley, Iowa, 50
Hoffman, Fred and Pauline, Chambersburg, Pa., 65
Hoover, Raymond and Lura, Goshen, Ind., 55
Hostetler, Dean and LaVerne, Windber, Pa., 50
Krehmeyer, August and Earlene, Haxtun, Colo., 60
Kreider, Clair and Betty, Willow Street, Pa., 55
Kreider, J. Russel and Mary, Lancaster, Pa., 50
Lindsay, William and Mildred, Huntingdon, Pa., 65
Mahan, Dan and Pat, Princess Anne, Md., 50
Martin, Harold and Priscilla, Lititz, Pa., 50
Miller, Henry and Mary, New Oxford, Pa., 74
Monke, Melvin and Phyllis, Kingsley, Iowa, 55
Patrick, Norman and Beryl, Hershey, Pa.
Quay, Clarence and Mary, Bridgewater, Va., 50
Rogers, Lewis and Shirley, Johnstown, Pa., 50
Rohrer, Harry and Joanna, Mechanicsburg, Pa., 50
Ross, Wayne and Mary Elizabeth, North Manchester, Ind., 50
Shaffer, Martin and Chrystal, Center Valley, Pa., 55
Snell, Wayne and Verna, Sparks, Nev., 50
Towers, Clayton and Jackie, Bridgewater, Va., 50
VanBaalen, William and Bettie, Sebring, Fla., 65
Warren, Joe and Dorothy, Smithville, Ohio, 50
Whalen, Dennis and Melva, Huntingdon, Pa., 50
Whitsel, Hays and Ruth, Chambersburg, Pa., 50
Wilhelm, Herbert and Doris, Pasadena, Calif., 50
Yoder, Elmer and Fern, Bremen, Ind., 60
Zook, Wayne and Evelyn, Wenatchee, Wash., 50

Deaths

Ake, Carrie, 63, Huntingdon, Pa., March 8
Alwine, Clyde, 86, Johnstown, Pa., June 10
Anthony, Effie Ott, 78, Dec. 13
Baker, Anne, 77, Huntingdon, Pa., May 16
Barrick, Barbara Lynne, 39, Harrisonburg, Va., May 17
Benham, Amy C., 62, Hampstead, Md., June 22
Berkey, Cynthia Ann, 44, Dec. 3
Berkey, Mary S., 79, Windber, Pa., May 8
Bible, Beulah Elizabeth, 90, Franklin, W.Va., May 17
Bleam, Ethel I., 77, Quakertown, Pa., May 18
Bodkin, Jaylene, 40, Bridgewater, Va., June 22
Bomberger, Mildred, 81, Leola, Pa., July 3
Bower, Donald, Wichita, Kan., Oct. 23, 1998
Brown, Everett E., 84, Wichita, Kan., May 17
Brown, Ruth H., 98, Wichita, Kan., June 3
Bucher, Anna, 95, July 3
Brumbaugh, Harold B., 89, Huntingdon, Pa., Jan. 18
Butterbaugh, Harriet, 94, La Verne, Calif., June 17
Byrd, Doris Ann Hartley, 96, Bridgewater, Va., May 18
Cameron, Ivella, 92, Johnstown, Pa., May 10
Carpenter, Fleta Virginia, 87, Dayton, Va., April 30
Carter, Gladys Stone, 93, Bassett, Va., July 17
Cherry, Ronald, 68, Huntingdon, Pa., March 19
Cleghorn, Karen Lea, 61, Hartford, Iowa, June 26
Cline, Denise Cool, 94, Coral Gables, Fla., June 15
Coffey, Dorothy, 79, Wichita, Kan., Feb. 4, 1999
Costlow, Mary, 88, Windber, Pa., June 6
Coulter, Annabelle, 91, Huntingdon, Pa., June 7, 1999
Crites, Thelma Lee, 78, Moorefield, W. Va., May 23
Crum, Melvin H., 75, Johnstown, Pa., July 5
Cubbage, Howard Vincent, 76, Stanley, Va., May 3
Detamore, Anne Mae, 77, Mathias, W. Va., June 9
Donner, Benjamin J., 88, Berlin, Pa., May 9
Dove, Denna Arlene, 79, New Market, Va., May 15
Dowdy, Earl, 70, Huntingdon, Pa., April 30
Eller, Rev. Henry Cline, 100, Bridgewater, Va., May 28
Emley, Ramah, 95, La Verne, Calif., June 4
Etter, Duane W., 78, Chambersburg, Pa., Feb. 1
Flory, Betty E., 77, Lawrence, Kan., April 6
Furr, William Harold, 81, Bridgewater, Va., May 27
Gardner, Merle, 63, Georgetown, Texas, May 22
Goss, Velma, 72, Lancaster, Pa., June 3
Gould, Rev.William L., 83, New Oxford, Pa., June 22
Green, Annetta, 60, Callaway, Va., May 20
Grove, Agnes, South English, Iowa, May 11
Gugelman, Ralph, 91, Fort Wayne, Ind., Jan. 16
Harper, Ella O., 89, Moyers, W.Va., April 15
Harper, Elsie, 94, Moyers, W.Va., April 10
Heiny, E. Wayne, 93, Modesto, Calif., June 11
Herbster, Glenn, 79, Lakeville, Ind., June 30
Hicks, Vernon, 64, Nevada, Mo., Sept. 1, 1998
Hileman, Lawrence G., 83, Elgin, Ill., Sept. 10, 1999
Hinkle, Mabel, 80, Lebanon, Pa., April 2
Huet, Frederick, Sr., 72, Johnstown, Pa., June 21
Isett, George, 77, Mount Vernon, Ohio, June 19
Kenyon, Edna, 94, Huntingdon, Pa., Jan. 10
King, Zela, 88, Bridgewater, Va., March 3
Kiracofe, Jimmie Lee, 57, Waynesboro, Va., June 8
Kojakanian, Alex, 82, Modesto, Calif., April
Korneich, Alex, 88, Elgin, Ill., April 26, 1999
Kretzer, Norman E., 79, Chambersburg, Pa., June 12
Lehman, Susan Sellers, 64, Dallastown, Pa., June 30
McWilliams, Clarence (Bud), 87, Pasadena, Calif., April 12
Mathias, Ervin Lee, 86, Timberville, Va., May 30
Maxwell, Troy, 72, Wichita, Kan., May 11
Miller, DeWitt Thomas, 81, Hampton, Va., April 16
Miller, Marion, 85, Lebanon, Pa., June 26
Mock, Harley, Wichita, Kan., Jan. 20, 1999
Mock, Olive, 80, Johnstown, Pa., March 1
Mosholder, Dorothy I., 86, Berlin, Pa., June 18
Musselman, Velma, 73, Hanover, Pa., June 24
Myer, Anna Mae, 88, Lebanon, Pa., June 1
Myers, Mattie Ellen, 94, Bridgewater, Va., May 5
Nicarry, Frances O., 80, Chambersburg, Pa., April 14
Pearson, Rachael, 14, Lakeville, Ind., June 2
Pence, Margaret Garber, 78, McGaheysville, Va., May 12
Picking, Esther B., 76, Mechanicsburg, Pa., May 16
Reed-Sechler, Ruth, 83, Windber, Pa., May 29
Roth, Dorothy, 90, Huntingdon, Pa., April 21
Runk, Hayden G., 86, McVeytown, Pa., July 3
Rupel, Dennis, 69, Stockton, Calif., June 4
Ryman, Medford Lester (Ted), 78, Mount Jackson, Va., June 5
Senn, Edward, 81, July 12
Sesser, Charles L., 84, Modesto, Calif., June 8
Shaffer, Hollis, 95, Whitewater, Kan., Nov. 28, 1998
Shaffer, Martin, 60, Nov. 3
Shuyler, Mary, 79, Quarryville, Pa., June 6
Smith, Carolyn Berkey, 36, June 16
Smitherman, Alma, 80, Winston-Salem, N.C., April 24
Spainhour, Henry (Ed), 82, Winston-Salem, N.C., June 11
Strawderman, Alfred Leon (Doc), 73, Luray, Va., June 15
Swihart, Elsie M. Anglemyer, 90, Goshen, Ind., June 29
Tryon, Charles, 90, La Verne, Calif., April 21
Vance, Gerdie Virginia, 94, Mathias, W.Va., May 17
Vought, Robert W., 59, Friedens, Pa., April 9
Wakeman, P. Stanley, 85, Toms Brook, Va., June 10
Walters, Frances Arlene Bambers, 88, Mount Jackson, Va., May 28
Warner, Robert M., Elgin, Ill., May 6, 1999
Watkins, Mabel, 81, Wichita, Kan., May 23
Weaver, Harold, 77, Annville, Pa., June 24
Weaver, Herman O., 86, Johnstown, Pa., July 6
Webb, Eva, 74, Rocky Mount, Va., May 7
Weirick, William, 70, Wichita, Kan., Feb. 3, 1999
Wellman, Claire, Sebring, Fla., July 12
Whetzel, Garnet Denzil, 79, Broadway, Va., May 2
Whitlow, James, 88, Rocky Mount, Va., June 22
Whitmer, Rebecca, Mount Morris, Ill., Nov. 6
Wimer, William A. (Bill), 58, Franklin, W.Va., May 18
Witter, Helen M., 83, Chambersburg, Pa., May 17
Wolf, A. Louise, 85, New Oxford, Pa., June 30
Woody, Mary, 100, La Verne, Calif., June 25
Yoder, Juanita, 77, Goshen, Ind., June 9
Ziegler, Ralph, 83, Elgin, Ill., Aug. 21, 1999
Ziegler, William, 92, Palmyra, Pa., April 19

Steady until the sun sets

When the Amalekites threatened, Moses sent Joshua out to fight them while Moses went up the hill, taking Aaron and Hur with him, to intercede with God on behalf of the Israelites. When Moses held up his hand to God, Israel prevailed. But when he lowered his hand, Amalek started to win in battle. As the day wore on Moses grew tired and had to sit down. Eventually Aaron and Hur had to hold up his hands for him. But his hands were "steady until the sun set," and Joshua defeated Amalek with the sword (Ex. 17:8-13).

As civil war wears on in Sudan—it has been 17 years now—our job as American Christians and the Church of the Brethren is to pray for peace and freedom there. "To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world," said Karl Barth. Here are some ways we might pray.

As civil war wears on in Sudan—it has been 17 years now—our job as American Christians and the Church of the Brethren is to pray for peace and freedom there.

Pray that Sudan might become a topic in the US presidential campaign. This seems preposterous, because even foreign affairs in general seems to be off the radar screen for political candidates. The electorate is more concerned about how to pay for prescription drugs or save Social Security than it is about the fate of Africans. But if I got a chance to ask the candidates a question, I would ask what they intend to do about Sudan. The war has killed nearly 2 million people, far more than were killed by the Serbs in Kosovo before the US took its stand. Nearly 4 million people have been forced to flee their homes at least once since 1983, and many thousands live in refugee camps. The number of victims of Sudan's war far outstrips that of recent wars in Chechnya, Kosovo, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Somalia combined. Yet Sudan is ignored and forgotten by the US and much of the world.

Pray the news about Sudan. No matter how many people are suffering in Sudan, chances are you won't read about it in your newspaper or hear it from Tom Brokaw. But news reports can be tracked down from the Internet. From the Reuters news wire on America Online, I learned that early this year President Clinton assigned diplomats to the Sudanese capital for the first time since the US closed its embassy in 1996. Then President Omar Hassan al-Bashir ousted from his government Islamist leader Hassan al-Turabi, leading to speculation that Bashir is trying to shed Sudan's image as an exporter of terrorism. The ouster of Turabi prompted rebel leader John Garang to fly to Cairo to talk with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. They discussed "ways to take advantage of these developments to turn Sudan into a new united and democratic Sudan," Garang told reporters then. These hopeful reports from last spring faded away with nothing seeming to come from them. More than two years of peace talks under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have so far failed to make any progress.

Pray for fighting to stop. First came reports in May that the government had resumed bombing attacks, in violation of a ceasefire agreement. Rebel troops, meanwhile, captured the town of Gogrial, previously held by the government. In late July rebels said the government had stepped up bomb attacks. Merlyn Kettering, the Church of the Brethren consultant to the New Sudan Council of Churches, reported during an Annual Conference insight session that the pace of government bombing has doubled since Sudan began receiving revenues from oil exports last year. A Canadian oil company, Talisman Energy, Inc., is helping to extract the oil, but is receiving pressure from home to stop fueling Khartoum's war effort.

Pray for "People-to-People" peace. The New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC), the Church of the Brethren's partner in the region, is sponsoring a series of peace conferences aimed at ending conflicts between traditional tribal enemies in Sudan. The Wunlit conference, in March 1999 (see Messenger, June 1999) was called to reconcile the Dinka and Nuer peoples. A second conference, the East Bank Nilotics Reconciliation Conference, was held this May with four additional ethnic groups. More such efforts are planned, with the idea that peace begun at the grassroots will spread.

Pray for commitment and persistence. In a recent Church of the Brethren video, Haruun Ruun, executive director of NSCC, compares Sudan's plight with that of South Africa during apartheid: "I never thought it would ever change. But Christians all over the world decided to do something. There is nothing impossible for God. They said, 'We are here as a voice of God and the hands of God. It is our responsibility to communicate to the world that God does not like this [apartheid]. And we don't want it.' They made that commitment.

"Our brothers and sisters in Euro-North America can do the same for Sudan. It is not a simple challenge. But it is a challenge for humanity. It can be done."

Prayers for peace in Sudan may be answered suddenly, as they seemed to be in South Africa. Or, as some Sudanese tell us, peace may take 40 years. Will our prayers last that long, or will we suffer "donor fatigue" and "Africa fatigue"? We must, like Moses, find ways to prop up our hands steady in prayer for as long as it takes.—Fletcher Farrar

Connect the Dots

Things are different

The Association of Brethren Caregivers has been an independent organization since January 1, 1998.

ABC became an official denominational agency on July 3, 1998.

Annual Conference charged ABC with responsibility for the health and caring ministries of the Church of the Brethren on July 3, 1998.

Most ABC programs are congregationally based.

ABC needs financial support from you and your congregation to continue these programs.

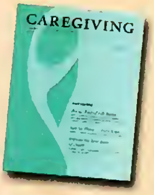
ABC ***does not*** receive financial support from any other denominational agency.

ABC connects to you and your congregation by providing:

- **National Older Adult Conference and Caring Ministries Assembly**
- **Deacon Resources**

Deacon Manual for Caring Ministries
Deacon Manual for Caring Ministries

- **Annual Health Promotion Worship and Study Resources**
- ***Caregiving*** — a quarterly publication for caregivers



- **Messenger On Tape** — for people with visual impairments
- **Scholarships and Loans for Studies in the Health Professions**

The only way you and your congregation can financially support the caring ministries of the Church of the Brethren is to send that support directly to ABC.

Support the Association of Brethren Caregivers

1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, Ill., 60120; (847) 742-5100, fax (847) 742-5160; www.brethren.org/abc/

MUTUALLY ENCOURAGED BY EACH OTHER'S FAIT

Partners in Christ: Wendy Metzger, Silver Lake, Ind., and Maria Magdalena, Las Lajas, Honduras. (David Radcliff photo)

Chicken pens and cement block houses are major advances, but there is something greater achieved when Honduran villagers and Brethren volunteers labor side by side. It's the exchange of spiritual gifts: spreading the good news of God's love and justice, living out the compassion of Jesus, discovering the hope that God puts in the eyes of the poor. Give to the World Mission Offering, that with our partners in Christ "we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith" (Rom. 1:12).

World Mission Offering
Church of the Brethren General Board
1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120

urch
f the
hren

MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2000 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG

EMEMBERING BRETHREN MARTYRS IN CHINA

ISTRY SUMMER SERVICE • A BRETHREN SAINT • SOUP KITCHEN IN D.C.

Feeling confined by your current web host?

Turn to an e-service that can meet your changing needs.

eMountain Communications, the electronic ministry of the Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust, can help you meet your personalized Internet and technology needs for today and tomorrow.

- **Web Development and Design.** From concept through design, we can effectively produce the message you want to convey through your Internet presence.
- **Basic Web Hosting.** Great rates to get you or your organization on the Web: $9.95/month basic plan; $12.95/month enhanced plan.
- **Secure Web Design, Hosting, and E-mail.** Encrypted Web transactions and e-mail messages provide a protected environment for e-commerce and online registrations and donations. eMountain provides e-commerce solutions from concept to hosting.
- **Listservs.** These e-mail based discussion groups can be utilized by small groups to conduct private business online or by a group or organization that wants a public forum for discussion or dissemination of information.
- **Other Services.** Basic e-mail accounts and domain name registration.

eMountain
COMMUNICATIONS

A ministry of
Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust

1505 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1619 • 800-250-5757 • 847-742-0135 fax • www.eMountain.net

OCTOBER 2000 VOL.149 NO.9 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG

MESSENGER

or: **Fletcher Farrar** Publisher: **Wendy McFadden** News: **Walt Wiltschek** Advertising: **Russ Matteson** Subscriptions: **Peggy Reinacher** Designer: **Paul Stocksdale**

ONTHECOVER

This month's cover features the story of the 13 Chinese Brethren who were killed because of their Christian witness 60 years ago this month. The Chinese characters on the cover, taken from an old Church of the Brethren pamphlet about the incident, depict an ancient Chinese saying: "Within four seas, all are brothers." It reflects the hope that did not die when these Christians were killed.

The cover design is by our designer, Paul Stocksdale. He and his wife, Cynthia, operate Cedar House Design in Elgin, Ill. They are members of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren.

10

Velma Ober

16

Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament

DEPARTMENTS

2 From the Publisher
3 In Touch
6 News
26 Letters
30 Turning Points
32 Editorial

10 Chinese Brethren martyrs

Today's Brethren can gather inspiration and courage from the lives and deaths of Christians in China who were killed for their faith 60 years ago this month. The gripping story is recounted by Jeff Bach, historian and professor at Bethany Theological Seminary.

14 Washington soup kitchen

Two BVS volunteers explain how they were blessed by the experience of working among the poor through the nutrition program of the Washington City Church of the Brethren.

16 A saint in the family

This month the Roman Catholic Church names Katharine Drexel as a saint of the church. Did she inherit godliness from her Brethren mother?

18 Grandparenting one at a time

Blessed with seven grandchildren, Merle and Jean Crouse, of St. Cloud, Fla., have found a way to get to know each of them individually, for their lovable uniqueness.

20

20 Ministry Summer Service

These young people weren't sure they wanted to be ministers, but as interns they got a chance to explore their "call." Their stories relate a summer of God's work in their lives.

24 Doing unto "others"

A thoughtful essay by Chris Bowman, pastor of Memorial Church of the Brethren, Martinsburg, Pa., on how Christians relate to those who are on the "other" side.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

A Southern Baptist co-worker tells a joke about two Southern Baptists stranded on a desert island. Their first activity is to set a Sunday school goal of three.

I didn't grow up Baptist, but I did grow up in an environment that was more evangelistic than the Church of the Brethren. When I met the Brethren, I admired the way they appeared to live out their faith. I also noticed quickly that they didn't do much talking about it. While they were warm and hospitable, they weren't invitational. Since that time, I've heard a number of other non-Brethren make the same observation.

I'm still pondering the Annual Conference conversation on evangelism. Clearly, the issue wasn't whether evangelism was important. It was whether adopting the query from Virlina District was the best way to light a fire in the Church of the Brethren. Though the majority voted to return the query, there was a lingering sense of dissatisfaction—a worry that the action would give the impression of saying no to evangelism.

Nobody was saying no, but over the years the Brethren have had trouble saying a clear yes.

While we talk a lot about the importance of evangelism, most of us are more comfortable when other people do the work of evangelism. We'll vote for the congregation to adopt a new program in evangelism, but we don't want to serve on the committee. We'll take a turn as a Sunday morning greeter, but we don't want to knock on doors. We believe evangelism is a good idea and want the denomination to do something about it, but we hope we personally won't have to do anything different. We're dedicated to following Jesus, but the cup of cold water is easier than the Great Commission.

It's as if evangelism isn't in the Brethren DNA. We graft on a technique here or a program there, but the branch bears fruit only temporarily. Our efforts at evangelism remind me of an introvert trying vainly to become an extrovert. I sense we're still seeking that form of evangelism that feels tailored for us, that is a way of life more than a program, that grows out of Brethren spirituality rather than church growth techniques.

It's more than just personality, however. Underlying this ambivalence is the theological diversity within the Church of the Brethren. In other words, how you approach evangelism has a lot to do with whether you believe your neighbor's eternal future depends on your witness. No matter what we say, few of us live our lives as if we believe this. Perhaps the streak of universalism in our history is more than just historical. Given our diversity, can we find a form of evangelism that unifies rather than divides us? That is passionate, effective, and authentic?

Based on what I've come to know of the Brethren, I believe our evangelism will grow out of hospitality and relationship. We will take into account the fact that we each accent different aspects of the "whole gospel" and that we don't all have to use the same language to be faithful. We will link word and action. We will emphasize being saved *for* more than being saved *from*. Our invitation to know Christ will involve an invitation to ongoing discipleship—which involves saying "yes" every day, not just once.

Do the Brethren really want to do evangelism? The question will probably come back to next year's Annual Conference. More important than the number of hands raised will be what we conferencegoers do when we get back home.

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

Messenger
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:
preinacher_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 847-742-5100
Fax: 847-742-6103

Display advertising:
rmatteson_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039
Fax: 847-742-1407

Editorial:
ffarrar_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 217-525-9083
Fax: 217-525-9269

Subscription rates:
$16.50 individual rate
$13.50 church group plan
$13.50 gift subscriptions

If you move, clip address label and send with new address to Messenger Subscriptions, at the above address. Allow at least five weeks for address change.

Connect electronically:
For a free subscription to *Newsline*, the Church of the Brethren e-mail news report, write cobnews@aol.com.

To view the official Church of the Brethren website, go to http://www. brethren.org.

Messenger is the official publication of the Church of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage matter Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 17, 1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of the Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religion News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Biblical quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the New Revised Standard Version. Messenger is published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Church of the Brethren General Board. Periodical postage paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing office, October 2000. Copyright 2000, Church of the Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0355. Postmaster: Send address changes to Messenger, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

Printed on recycled paper

Planting a thousand flowers for Camp Mount Hermon

In June, junior campers planted 1,086 flowers at Camp Mount Hermon, the Western Plains District camp located near Tonganoxie, Kan. Cheryl Mishler, nature study leader, led the project. The Women's Fellowship of the Holmesville (Neb.) Church of the Brethren donated money toward the flowers, and Rolling Hills Nursery of Sabetha, Kan., donated many plants and planters. The flowers added a beautiful touch to the spacious campgrounds nestled in the lush timbered area.

Junior campers *planting flowers at Camp Mount Hermon.*

Antioch auction plants seed money

Every year for the past 17 years, the folks at Antioch Church of the Brethren, Rocky Mount, Va., have held a World Hunger Auction. This year's auction was the subject of a feature story in *The Roanoke Times*.

The first auction, held in 1984 and led by W.W. Naff Jr., raised $10,201, which was earmarked for hunger relief in Haiti, according to the newspaper.

The article continued: "In the years since, the auction has changed a bit—handmade quilts are more prominently featured than livestock and the number of cosponsoring Brethren congregations has grown to nine this year. The goal remains the same, however—to raise money to help feed some of the world's poorest people. The auction is now named in memory of Naff, and a total of more than $500,000 has been raised, including $26,000 on Aug. 12."

Most of the money has gone to Heifer Project International. Other beneficiaries of this year's auction included the Heavenly Manna feeding program in Franklin County, and Roanoke Area Ministries.

The newspaper reported: "In a twist to the typical auction, the auctioneers actually give out $20 bills to participants. There is a catch, of course. To get the $20, a bidder must agree to put that money to use to raise money for the next year's auction.

"This year, for instance, one Sunday school class brought in $2,000 it raised by using its $20 to buy beans. The class members planted them, harvested, canned, and sold them to "grow" their contribution to hunger relief.

"'I'm not sure we even keep track of who gets the envelopes with the money in them,' said Antioch pastor Mel Fike. 'Anybody who wants to take one of the $20 envelopes can take one.'"

Jeff Glass

Auctioneer Phil Norris, a former pastor, *drummed up bids in an auction for disaster relief efforts at this year's Oregon/Washington District Conference, held July 28-30 at Camp Myrtlewood, Myrtle Point, Ore. About 40 people attended the auction, which raised more than $4,500. District executive Steve Gregory said the money would be used to send volunteers from the district to a disaster site.*

Church honors seniors and hears history firsthand

A "young at heart" group of 23 people were guests of honor at a special recognition for the church's oldest members April 30 at Brownsville (Md.) Church of the Brethren. During the morning worship service they were presented flowers and commended for their faithful service to the church. About 100 people, including family and friends, enjoyed a meal in their honor following the service.

During the program some of the guests shared comments about their baptism and life in the church, where most have been lifelong members.

Anna Thompson Sullivan was baptized in 1925 in Israel Creek, and the next year Thelma Hanes Thompson, Anna Mae Coulter Kelbaugh, and Fred Younkins were also baptized there. Hazel Himes Harwood reported her baptism was in a different section of the creek. The fresh running water was cold!

Most of those honored remain active in the church, attending regularly.—**Cindy Bowers**

The "young at heart" of the Brownsville Church of the Brethren. *Front row: Hazel Harwood, James Harwood, Thelma Hanes Thompson, Fred Younkins, Anna Mae Kelbaugh, Ethel Smith, Virginia Goetz, and Ruby Tritapoe. Middle row: Bertha Iseminger, Gerald Hanes, Florence Kaetzel, Mary Kaetzel, Fannie Tritapoe, Dorothy Poffenberger, Blanche Fletcher, Anna Snoots, and Ray Lucas. Back row, from left: Walter UpDyke, Mary Harris, Anna Sullivan, Earl Robinson.*

A different kind of birthday gift

Ashley Williams recently celebrated her ninth birthday with her mom, Amy, and over 20 other friends, her peers.

Most any girl or boy likes birthdays as they are times of celebration—party times! They are great times for games, refreshments, having fun with your friends and, of course, gifts. This party was no exception. But the gift thing that day was focused outward to those in greater need—the hungry. Instead of the tradition of bringing a gift for the birthday celebrant, Ashley and Amy together decided (for the second year now) to encourage Ashley's friends to each bring food for the local food pantry instead. So, 13 sacks of food items were collected. A celebration indeed!

Ashley and Amy Williams attend the Wabash (Ind.) Church of the Brethren.—**Phil and Louie Baldwin Rieman**

Ashley Williams, *front, with her mother, Amy*

MILESTONES

Honoring 50 years of musical leadership

On June 18 the morning worship service at the Midway Church of the Brethren, Lebanon,

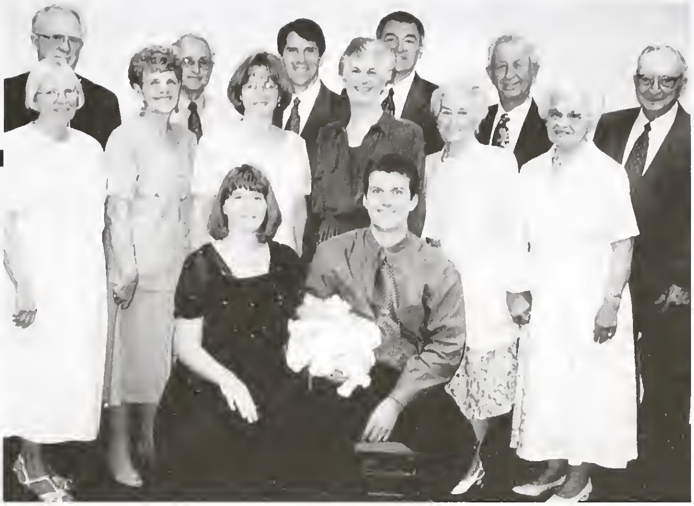
Arlene Schlosser Keller

Pa., was devoted to honoring the 50 years of service of Arlene Schlosser Keller as director of music.

In June of 1950, then a young wife and new mother, she was asked to start a choir at the Midway church. It developed through the next half century into a vibrant, well-known ever-expanding Senior Choir.

She has taught Sunday school for 48 years, shared deacon responsibility with her husband, Norman, for 45 years, and she has served on local and district church boards. Arlene and her sister, Verna S. Sollenberger, shared the song leader position at the 1983 Annual Conference and Arlene led the singing at the Phoenix, Ariz., Annual Conference in 1985.

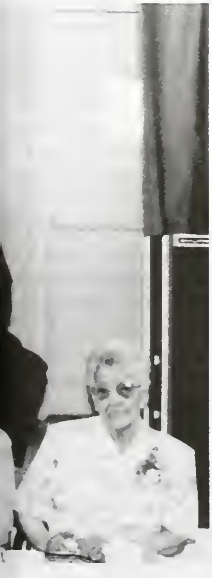
The Senior Choir and Men's Choir gathered for one last time under her direction on July 9 for an evening of favorite songs and anthems. A standing ovation from the full house was an indication of their appreciation for her years of service and the performance of her choirs.—Joyce C. Blouch



Great-grandparents galore

When Rachael Elizabeth was born to Darren and Sarah Wagoner Hendricks on April 21, 2000, she was welcomed into a rare grandparent situation. Not only four grandparents welcomed her, but also eight great-grandparents, all of whom have been married for over 50 years. The family members, nearly all of whom are members of the Church of the Brethren, were photographed when they were in McPherson, Kan., for a family wedding in May.

In addition to the parents in the front, left to right in the photo are: Paul and Mary Metzler Wagoner of McPherson, Kan., Henry and Ruth Walker Cooney, McPherson; Alan and Debra Cooney Wagoner, McPherson; Francis Jr. and Jean Lichty Hendricks, Eudora, Kan.; Eugene and Eloise McKnight Lichty, McPherson; Francis and Estelle Kurtz Hendricks, Kingsley, Iowa.



Fifty years of marriage and ministry

John and Veva Tomlonson of Goshen, Ind., celebrated two important anniversaries in August. Their 50th wedding anniversary was Aug. 20 and Aug. 27 was John's 50th anniversary of ordination as a minister in the Church of the Brethren.

They were married in the Wabash (Ind.) Church of the Brethren with Veva's brother, Gale Crumrine, officiating. John was ordained at the Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren, Middlebury, Ind., with the pastor, Homer Schrock, and representatives of the district board officiating.

Prior to their retirements, Veva taught fourth grade in the Kalamazoo, Mich., public schools and worked as a librarian in Kansas. John served as pastor of the Skyridge Church of the Brethren, Kalamazoo, Mich., and as district minister in Michigan and Kansas. Prior to moving to Kalamazoo in 1962, Veva taught school in Illinois and Ohio, and John served as pastor of churches in Ohio.

York Center celebrates 50th anniversary

The York Center Church of the Brethren's celebration of its 50th anniversary as an independent congregation included an informal Sunday afternoon service that began in the parking lot of the congregation's first permanent church building, across the street from the one used today. The church is in Lombard, Ill.

Other highlights of the Aug. 12-13 celebration included a Saturday evening banquet with storytelling; a Sunday morning service with a sermon by Wayne Glick, a student pastor there in the 1940s; a Sunday brunch; and a display of historical information. York Center served as the main congregation for Bethany Theological Seminary students and staff while the seminary was located in nearby Oak Brook.

Jim Lehman

A father and daughter musical team, *Mike Stern, right, and daughter, Katie, of Seattle, Wash., used voice and strings to provide some of the plentiful music at the Great Plains Song & Story Fest, held at Camp Pine Lake, Eldora, Iowa.*

Events draw Brethren before and after Conference

Two events surrounding the 2000 Annual Conference drew hundreds of Brethren to two very different settings.

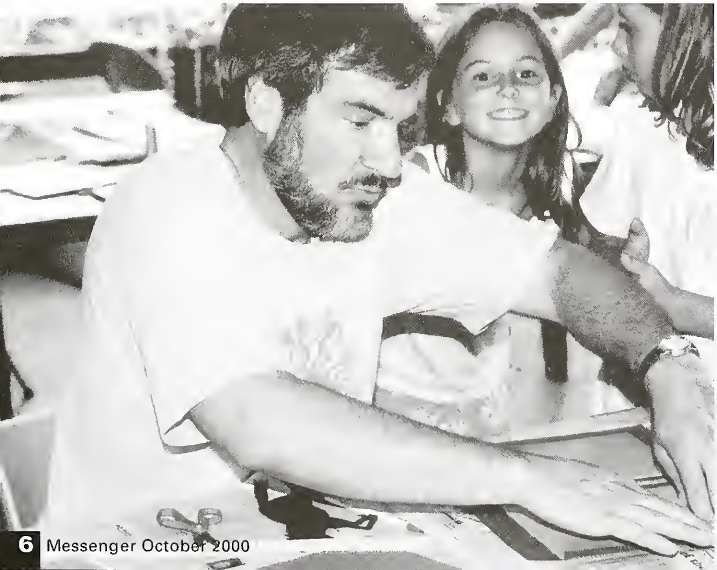
Before Conference, more than 100 gathered at Camp Pine Lake in Eldora, Iowa, for the Great Plains Song & Story Fest, the fourth straight year for the annual celebrative event. A variety of musicians, storytellers, artists, and others built on the theme "The Fruits of the Land."

Adults and children participated together, in workshops, activity sessions, and daily joke-telling times by the campfire.

Ken Kline-Smeltzer, who initially started the song and story festivals, served as program director and Mary Jane Button-Harrison as on-site director.

Then, after Annual Conference, more than 180 ministers, spouses, and ministry students came together for the Ministers' Association meetings in Kansas City, Mo., with theologian Thomas Troeger serving as keynote speaker. Troeger spoke on "Interactive Preaching: Parabolic Preaching in a Webbed World," illustrating the possibilities and power of the spoken word and sprinkling music and hymns throughout his presentations and preaching.

Frances Townsend, pastor of the Root River congregation (Preston, Minn.) and this year's chair of the Ministers' Association, convened the event. Tim Peter, pastor at Prairie City (Iowa), was elected to the executive committee and will serve as secretary this coming year. He joins new chair Donna Ritchey Martin of Grossnickle (Myersville, Md.), vice-chair Michael Hostetter of Williamson Road (Roanoke, Va.), and treasurer Dan Barnum-Steggerda of Daleville (Va.). Allen Hansell, General Board director of ministry, serves as staff liaison.


Jim Lehman

Learning the art of bookmaking, *Ken Kline Smeltzer of Modesto, Calif., gets enriched through workshops at the Great Plains Song & Story Fest,*

BBT among those petitioning AT&T

The Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust has joined more than two dozen institutional investors, both religious groups and others, in calling on AT&T to reconsider a recent decision to partner with The Hot Network, which distributes pornographic material for broadcast on cable TV systems.

The investors collectively control nearly 3 million shares of AT&T; BBT has 33,745 shares between Brethren Foundation and Pension Plan holdings. A joint letter sent to AT&T says, "We call on AT&T to reconsider its decision to carry The Hot Network, to live up to its past reputation as a leading corporate citizen and a company committed to a values-centered business philosophy." It also questions the management processes leading to such a decision.

Wil Nolen, president of BBT, said, "We believe in using BBT's shareholder position to advocate for a higher standard of social responsibility. AT&T is a reliable company that has allowed its standards to slip. We intend to use our investment position in AT&T to work for a positive change."

According to a Religion News Service story, however, AT&T spokesman Rob Stoddard said in late July that no reconsideration of the decision was expected. "We intend to proceed with our plans," Stoddard said, emphasizing that The Hot Network will only be offered where "very effective parental lock mechanisms" are available.

Other members of the coalition include Mennonite, Friends, Presbyterian, and Catholic groups.

WORLDWATCH

1. **India.** An Emergency Disaster Fund grant of $8,000 was sent as part of a Church World Service appeal to assist victims of massive flooding in three states. The funds will provide clothing, blankets, dry food, and other resources.

2. **Hiroshima, Japan.** Brethren Volunteer Service staff members Sue Grubb and Tracy Stoddart were among 40,000 people attending the 55th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony for the dropping of the first atomic bomb while making an on-site visit with volunteers at the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima.

3. **Southwestern Montana.** A six-member Emergency Response/Service Ministries Disaster Child Care team traveled to the state in response to numerous wildfires in the area, caring for children of families who had been evacuated.

4. **Tonasket, Wash.** The Whitestone and Ellisforde congregations have been among those working with the North Okanogan Ministerial Association to provide relief for families affected by forest fires that burned through the area in late July and August.

5. **Iraq.** Early August marked 10 years of US economic sanctions against the country. An event in Washington, D.C. called "National Mobilization to End Sanctions Against Iraq" included an interfaith vigil, prayer, panel discussions, and a rally at Lafayette Park. Stephanie Schaudel of the Church of the Brethren Washington Office assisted with the event.

6. **Nigeria.** Assistance to violence-ravaged areas of the African nation continued in August with a new grant of $5,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to help rebuild the church and parsonage burned during riots in Damboa and church buildings at two preaching points. Muslim-Christian tensions resulted in the riots this spring.

7. **Cuba.** An official delegation of the US National Council of Churches, led by general secretary Bob Edgar, traveled to the Caribbean nation for a Sept. 2-7 visit by invitation of the Cuban Council of Churches.

8. **Roxbury, Pa.** Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 240, held in partnership with Brethren Revival Fellowship, took place Aug. 14-23, with guest leadership by John and Ruby Shenk. The nine volunteers were expected to serve in the Dominican Republic or Lewiston, Maine.

9. **Richmond, Ind.** About 50 Brethren met at Bethany Theological Seminary on Aug. 19 for intergenerational sharing between Brethren Volunteer Service/Civilian Public Service alumni and youth in Ohio and Indiana. Dr. C.T. Vivian delivered the keynote address.

Walt Wiltschek

Brethren Alive 2000: *Lois Ann Glessner of the Welsh Run congregation, Mercersburg, Pa., led children's activities during the Brethren Revival Fellowship's conference at Elizabethtown College.*

Brethren Alive 2000 includes worship & BRF elections

The Brethren Alive 2000 conference, sponsored by Brethren Revival Fellowship, brought together about 300 Brethren from at least eight states July 28-30 at Elizabethtown, Pa. The gathering of "Anabaptist-oriented evangelical Brethren" billed the event as an opportunity to "celebrate the church and to encourage one another."

James Myer, Manheim, Pa.; David Kent, St. Thomas, Pa.; David Rittenhouse, Dunmore, W.Va.; and Phill Carlos Archbold, Brooklyn, N.Y., served as the main speakers for four worship sessions, each speaking on different aspects of the theme scripture, Acts 2:42-47.

Participants could also choose from seven workshops focusing on specific ways to work at renewal in the life of the individual and the church, ranging from a Bible study of Acts 2 to a session on "hot potatoes" (controversial subjects) in the denomination.

During the conference BRF also held its annual meeting, at which Carl Brubaker, Lititz, Pa., and Dean Garrett, West Alexandria, Ohio, were re-elected to serve five-year terms on the BRF Committee.

Brethren Alive 2000 was followed by the annual Brethren Bible Institute, which had 122 students registered for the week of classes on the Elizabethtown campus.

BRETHRENSPEAK

I would like this to be the revival year for the Church of the Brethren. I would like to lift up the cross of Jesus, who said, 'If I am lifted up I will draw all men unto me.'

Phill Carlos Archbold, *following his consecration as 2001 Annual Conference moderator.*

CNI officials postpone delegation's visit to US

A mid-August meeting scheduled between three high-ranking representatives from the Church of North India and General Board members and staff was postponed after a member of the delegation was unable to make the trip.

The Most Rev. Vinod Peter, moderator of CNI, experienced back problems that prevented him from traveling; other scheduled participants in the visit were the Right Rev. V.M. Malaviya, bishop of Gujarat State; and Dr. V.S. Lall, general secretary of CNI. The meetings are to be rescheduled at a later date.

The visit was to continue conversations regarding the "separated" Brethren in India, many of them in Gujarat State. The Church of the Brethren in India joined CNI in 1970, but some congregations seceded in 1978 and have sought formal recognition since then. CNI representatives planned to meet with a recognition committee that visited India this past spring, as well as with General Board executive director Judy Mills Reimer, Global Mission Partnerships director Merv Keeney, and others.

Personnel changes

Bob Gross and Barbara Sayler have been called as team executive directors of On Earth Peace Assembly, beginning this fall.

Gross, who has been coordinator of OEPA's Ministry of Reconciliation program since 1995, had been serving as interim staff coordinator for the New Windsor, Md.-based agency since April. He will continue as director of ministries for MoR, working out of North Manchester, Ind.

Sayler, a licensed minister

and Bethany Theological Seminary graduate, has served with several organizations, including Brethren Volunteer Service, the Church of the Brethren Washington Office, and Disaster Child Care. Her work with OEPA will include planning peace action/witness components.

Ron and Shirley Spire have announced their retirement as co-executives of Southeastern District, effective March 31, 2001. At that time they will have completed 15 years of service in the role.

David Longenecker resigned as associate district executive of Atlantic Northeast District effective Aug. 31. He had served in that position since 1994. Longenecker was called as pastor of the Myerstown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren beginning Sept. 1.

Kristi Kellerman resigned as conference assistant in the Annual Conference office effective Aug. 25. She had been serving in the position since 1998.

Conference theme centers on revival

Annual Conference Program & Arrangements Committee has announced that "Revive Us Again," a phrase taken from Psalms 85:6 and part of a popular hymn, will be the theme for the 2001 Annual Conference in Baltimore, Md. Conference is scheduled for June 30-July 4.

The theme statement from moderator Phill Carlos Archbold says, "There is an urgent need for revival in this new millennium. At the 2001 Annual Conference, the worship services will focus our attention on the need for revival in God's church in our time."

Walt Wiltschek

Campus ministers of the six Church of the Brethren colleges *came together in Elgin, Ill., before the fall semester to get better acquainted, share resources, and gather ideas for future collaboration. They are, from left, Debbie Roberts (La Verne), Dave Witkovsky (Juniata), Joan Austin (Elizabethtown), Jim Chinworth (Manchester), Manny Diaz (McPherson), and Robbie Miller (Bridgewater).*

Preachers and worship leaders for services during Conference are as follows:

•**Saturday evening,** preacher: Phill Carlos Archbold, moderator of the 2001 Conference and associate pastor of Brooklyn (N.Y.) First Church of the Brethren; worship leader: Paul Grout, 2001 Annual Conference moderator-elect.

•**Sunday morning,** preacher: Tom Zuercher, Northern Ohio District executive minister; worship leader: Linda Lambert, Keymar, Md.

•**Monday evening,** preacher: Harold Carter, New Shiloh Baptist Church, Baltimore, Md.; worship leader: Marilyn Montauban, Brooklyn, N.Y.

•**Tuesday evening,** preacher: Frank Ramirez, pastor of Elkhart (Ind.) Valley Church of the Brethren; worship leader: Paula Bowser, Nokesville, Va.

•**Wednesday morning,** preacher: Christy Waltersdorff, pastor of York Center Church of the Brethren, Lombard, Ill.; worship leader: Joe Mason, North Manchester, Ind.

Worship coordinator for the Conference is Paul Roth of Broadway, Va., serving in his final year on Program & Arrangements Committee.

Summer campaign brings Brethren to D.C.

Thousands of people went to Washington, D.C., this summer to maintain a 40-day peacemaking presence through the "People's Campaign for Nonviolence," sponsored by The Fellowship of Reconciliation. Demanding disarmament, peace and justice organizations from across the country hosted daily activities and nonviolent direct action at the Pentagon, White House, or the US Capitol from July 1 to Aug. 9.

The event opened with a day of panel discussion and nonviolence training. The following days were a call for peace and social justice through rallies, workshops, peaceful protests, interfaith prayer services, marches, and discussion. Each day concluded with prayer and reflection led by a guest speaker.

Brethren participated in a number of events, including the Abolish the Death Penalty vigil July 26 near the White House. In drizzling rain about 100 people participated in a two-hour litany, which was followed by speeches and discussion pointing out the faults of the death penalty.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 6-7 **Mid-Atlantic District Conference,** St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Easton, Md.

Oct. 7 **On Earth Peace Assembly board meetings**

Oct. 8 **World Mission offering**

Oct. 13-14 **Atlantic Northeast District Conference,** Elizabethtown (Pa.) College; **Atlantic Southeast District Conference,** Camp Ithiel, Gotha, Fla.; **Southern Ohio District Conference,** Beavercreek Church of the Brethren; **Middle Pennsylvania District Conference,** Methodist Church of the Good Shepherd, Tyrone

Oct. 13-15 **Pacific Southwest District Conference,** Sacramento (Calif.) Church of the Brethren

Oct. 21 **Western Pennsylvania District Conference,** Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren, Johnstown

Oct. 21-24 **General Board meetings,** Elgin, Ill.

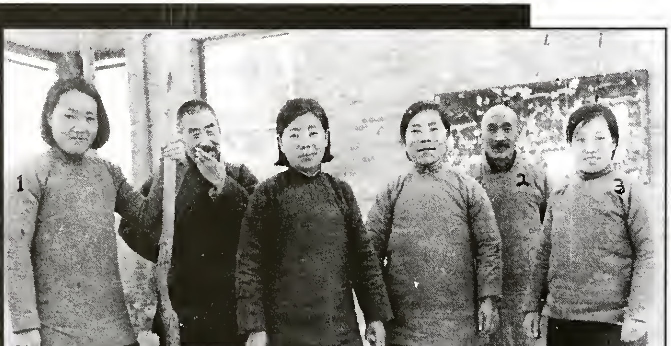
Oct. 27-28 **Idaho District Conference,** Fruitland Church of the Brethren

Oct. 27-29 **Bethany Theological Seminary board meetings,** Richmond, Ind.

Remembering Brethren

Sixty years ago this month, 13 died for their faith and witness

by Jeff Bach



Three of the Chinese Brethren martyrs *are in this picture. Lui Chin Lan, left, was a teacher in the girls' school. Wang Kuei Jung, second from ght, was a teacher, deacon, and preacher. Chang Shu Mei, at far ght, was a teacher at the women's Bible school.*

Velma Ober

On the morning of Oct. 19, 1940, Japanese soldiers led a group of eight Chinese Brethren to an empty lot in the southeast corner of Liao Chou in Shansi Province, northern China. The soldiers placed the eight in a row and shot them to death. The witnesses who told Brethren missionaries about the killings dared to watch only through a crack in the door of their home adjacent to the lot. The soldiers dumped the victims in a common grave and covered the bodies.

Sixty years ago the war resulting from Japan's invasion of China raged across northern China. In the summer of 1940, Japanese forces suffered heavy losses from Chinese resistance. Liao Chou, the second Brethren mission point and congregation in China, organized in 1912, sat amid the contest between the Japanese and Chinese. The nearby congregation, Ping Ting, had already begun to face the arrest of some members.

nartyrs in China

Liu Ch'un Jung, *second from right, helped Brethren missionary Howard Sollenberger, second from left, with relief work. Liu Ch'un Jung was imprisoned with his sister Lui Chin Lan on Aug. 23 and both were shot on Oct. 19, 1940.*

Velma Ober

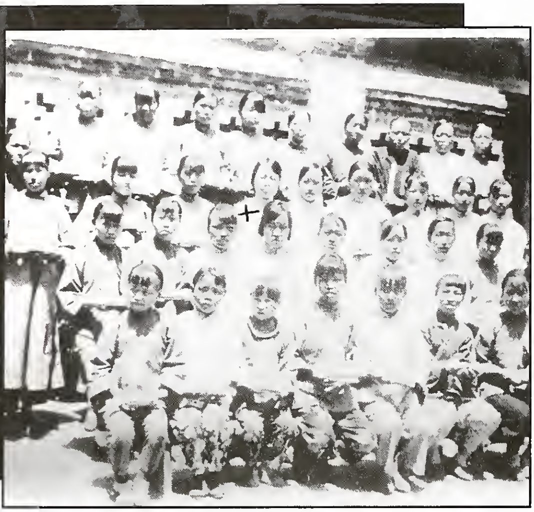
In addition, wartime devastation and famine reduced the food supply. The Brethren at Liao Chou offered a camp for children to help feed them, and tried to keep their school open. The Brethren hospital at Liao Chou served as an important medical center for Chinese civilians. War conditions so taxed the Brethren hospital that one of the nurses, Martha Pollack from Monitor, Kan., died of typhus in January 1940 while caring for the patients who had it.

As Japanese reverses continued in the summer of 1940, the initial mild treatment from the Japanese changed. Occupying officials regularly questioned the inhabitants of the Brethren mission compound at Liao Chou outside the city wall. Because the Brethren fed the hungry and cared for the sick, Chinese and American Christians were accused of being Communists and aiding the Chinese guerrillas in the hills around Liao Chou.

Japanese antipathy toward the Christians came to a head beginning on Aug. 19, when soldiers arrested Li Che'ng Chang, one of the leading teachers of the mission boys' school, and Wang Kuei Lin, the 52-year-old cook in the house for the women missionaries, who had been associated with the mission for decades. The cook was released, only to be arrested again later. Li Che'ng Chang was 30 and from an old and respected family of Liao Chou. He had become an active leader since his conversion to Christianity, teaching and preaching at the mission.

Five days later, on Aug. 23, soldiers returned to the mission compound and arrested seven more. They included Dr. Wang Yu Kang, the only physician at the mission hospital; Liu Fu Jung, the head male nurse; and Wang Kuei Jung, a brother to the cook. Wang Kuei Jung was a deacon, preacher, and evangelist, as well as a teacher. Two women, Liu Chin Lan and Ti'en Mei Siu, both teachers in the girls school, were arrested. Liu Chin Lan's 22-year-old brother, Liu Ch'un Jung, was also arrested, along with Wang Pao Lo, the 20-year-old son of the cook arrested earlier. The two young men were just finishing high school.

These seven, along with Li Ch'eng Chang, were interrogated and tortured. They finally agreed to false charges of being members of the Communist Party, even though missionaries



Nettie Senger

Chao Su Ti, *near the center marked with an x, is shown here with the members of the Thousand-Characters Class with their diplomas. She was killed on Oct. 13, 1940.*

Ernest Wampler and Frank Crumpacker repeatedly assured Japanese officials that the eight were not Communists.

On Oct. 7, Japanese soldiers returned to the compound and lined up all the Chinese in the courtyard of the Brethren hospital. They forced missionaries Ernest Wampler and Anna Hutchison to leave the courtyard with the threat of arresting all the Chinese. The soldiers then picked eight random prisoners and arrested them. They included six women: Chang Shu Mei, a teacher in the Bible school; Chao Su Ti and Chao Yu, both adult pupils in the school; Chang Kai Hsien and Chao Kai Hsien, both nurses in the hospital; and another student, Tsao Yu Fen. Two men were arrested with this group, Chao Ch'un Jen, the hospital cook, and Wang Kuei Lin, the cook in the women's house who had been arrested and released in August.

Ironically, Wang Kuei Lin had been so distressed over the imprisonment of his brother and son that he found it difficult to do his work. He had said that if they were released, he would feel able to do anything. Instead, on Oct. 7 he joined them again in prison.

Now the Japanese struck at the Christians. Of the last eight arrested on Oct. 7, soldiers selected three women and stabbed them to death by sword on Oct. 13. The victims were the teacher, Chang Shu Mei, and the two students, Chao Su Ti and Chao Yu. Their bodies were thrown into an air raid dugout and covered with dirt.

The next morning the soldiers released the other three women from this group after repeatedly raping them. Those released were the two nurses, Chao Kai Hsien and Chang Kai Hsien, and Yu Fen. Two of these were 16-year-old girls. They learned later that a city official had overstepped one of the military authorities and ordered the release of the girls, who were intended for execution the day after their release.

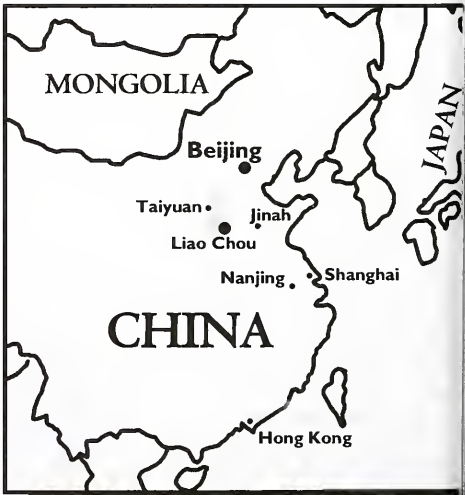
Meanwhile, Chinese guerrilla attacks in the countryside inflicted heavy casualties on Japanese forces. The American embassy ordered all American women and children to leave China. Missionary personnel began efforts to plan the departure of their children and women.

The Japanese, antagonized by their losses, struck again at the Christians in Liao. Soldiers gathered the eight Brethren who had first been arrested in August and shot them on Oct. 19.

The executions took place at the same time that Ernest Wampler was convening a meeting for American Brethren to consider who would go and who would attempt to stay. Of the few Chinese Brethren who hadn't already fled Liao, most were dead or under arrest. Those who had fled to the hills advised the American mission workers to leave. Missionary staff believed this could alleviate the persecution against the Chinese Brethren.

But by December 1940, the remaining American Brethren evacuated Liao permanently. As they left, they learned that the two cooks, Wang Kuei Lin and Chao Ch'un Jen, were shot on Nov. 16, bringing the total to 13 Brethren killed at Liao.

The 13 martyrs of Liao Chou were mostly lead-



Area of Brethren mission field *is designate by the shaded area. Liao Chou is the pla where the martyrs had live* ers in the Christian congregation, some with professional training. Although Dr. Wang Ku Kang had not yet received baptism, he was preparing by learning more about the Christian faith. The day before his execution he sent a letter to his Christian wife, encouraging her to continue praying and reading the Bible, and to raise their children to become Christians. The teacher, Liu Chin Lan, had declared during a worship service some months before her death that she would be willing to die rather than renounce her faith in Christ.

Her brother, Liu Ch'un Jung, told missionary Anna Hutchison shortly before his arrest that he and his sister had discussed whether they would be able to remain faithful to death, given the unrest of the war situation. Both had been beaten for their conversions by their father, who in turn soon joined them as Christians. Sister and brother both proved to be faithful even in death.

The teacher, Ti'en Mei Hsiu, left behind a Christian husband who was evangelizing in the rural area outside Liao Chou when she was arrested. Their two-year-old son was cared for by Baptists until the father could be reunited to him. Chang Shu Mei, a 31-year-old teacher in the women's Bible classes, also spoke at worship services. Chao Ch'un Jen, the hospital cook, was 31 when he was killed. He had been baptized only in May of the same year.

The 13 Brethren martyrs of 60 years ago were only a few of the many victims of atrocities during the Sino-Japanese war. Their deaths removed any lasting Christian presence in Liao Chou. On later trips to China, former missionary Wendell Flory has found no traces of the Christian congregation there. Some of the descendants of the martyrs now live in the United States. The name of the town, Liao Chou, has been changed to Zuo Xien. The new name honors a local Chinese military leader, Zuo Chuan, whose tactics allowed a large number of Chinese troops to escape a Japanese assault.

While the Brethren congregation at Liao Chou ended with their deaths, it is all the more important that Brethren today continue to remember them. They counted the cost of trusting in Christ and ministered readily in Christ's name to the sick and hungry in the midst of war. Such a faith cannot be destroyed by death. Neither should our political and cultural drifts hide the memory of their suffering and faith. The martyrs of Liao Chou can inspire Brethren in the comforts of North America to hold and share our faith in Jesus Christ, and minister to the sick and hungry in areas today ravaged by war, famine, and disease, regardless of the cost.

Jeff Bach is associate professor of Brethren and Historical Studies at Bethany Theological Seminary, where he has taught the past six years. His doctoral degree in religion from Duke University focused on the history of Anabaptism and the Pietist movement. He also served seven years as pastor of the Prairie City (Iowa) Church of the Brethren.

Speaking of Jesus. . .

Theological Conference
December 29, 2000 - January 1, 2001

Who: Up to 250 Brethren
Place: Cincinnati Airport Holiday Inn
Cost: $250 covers registration, meals, lodging and contribution to travel pool

✳Special rate and daily activities for children
✳Travel Aid provided for those coming from over 600 miles (half-off air fare–up to $250)

Sessions

Friday Evening Opening Session:
Dawn Wilhelm
Saturday Morning Bible Study:
Sue Wagner Fields, Belita Mitchell and David Valeta
Sunday Morning Bible Study:
Galen Hackman, Valentina Satvedi and Virginia Wiles
"Who Do You Say" Plenary Sessions:
Mary Jane Button-Harrison, Scott Holland,
Stephen Breck Reid and David Rittenhouse
Monday Morning Closing Session:
Kurt Borgmann

Plus many thought-provoking and participatory workshops

Sponsored by Bethany Theological Seminary and the Church of the Brethren General Board

For information please call (800) 323-8039, ext. 228

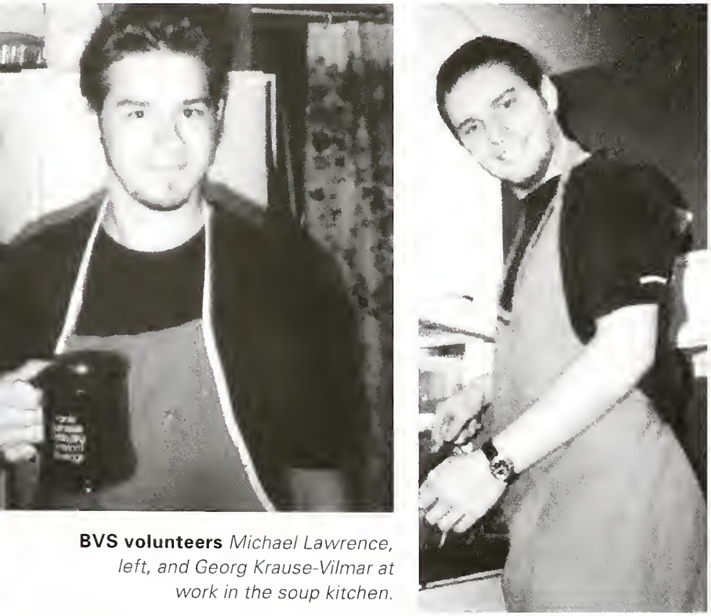
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

at the Washington City Church of the Brethren Nutrition Program

by Michael Lawrence with Georg Krause-Vilmar

We hear it all the time. Whether we listen to advertisements for Jobs.com, speeches from campaigning politicians, or read through the Brethren Volunteer Service project booklet, we hear the idea of going out into the world and changing it for the better. Georg and I know from working and serving in the Washington City Church of Brethren Nutrition Program that "making a difference" as BVSers can truly "ruin you for life," as veterans of the life-changing program like to say.

The Brethren Nutrition Program, or Washington City Soup Kitchen, as it is commonly called, is responsible for serving meals five days a week to 50 to 75 guests who are hungry and often homeless. Since beginning our BVS assignments, we have seen positive changes in the kitchen, where our continual contact with regular clients has spawned many friendships.



BVS volunteers *Michael Lawrence, left, and Georg Krause-Vilmar at work in the soup kitchen.*

The kitchen is transformed daily from just a place to get a free meal to a place of fellowship. When guests come in we recognize them by face, name, or nickname. I am friends with guys named Speedy, Doc, Roadrunner, Smokey, and of course Eat 'Em Up. Our free minutes after the main noon rush are spent sitting in the dining room and listening to them, hearing their problems, sharing in their positive moments, and basically just being a friend.

Another side to our BVS role involves making decisions about the overall program and how that will affect our guests. By providing a free meal, as well as other social services like food stamp referrals, clothing distribution, and legal counseling, we find that guests appreciate people who take the time to help them out. The thank-yous received by guests who take food "home" is a good indicator of how important a simple bowl of soup can be over mere words without action.

Georg and I have been growing in our openness toward all people, and reservations about talking to those less fortunate are slowly dying away. When we see our guests out on the streets, they recognize us, and we begin talking to them while other pedestrians quickly walk around us, afraid to even glance our way. One time when I was talking with a guest about modern art outside the National Art Museum, I was wondering if anyone else in Washington, D.C., was having the kind of honest, shared moment of human contact that we were.

Georg and I have also been learning about how we respond to difficult circumstances. It is said that character is formed in adversity, that there is no progress without struggle. Both of us are still technically teenagers, yet we have had to coordinate incoming volunteer groups, make food bank pickups, settle down fights in the dining room, keep track of our donations and

SOUP KITCH
CHURCH
OF THE
BRETHREN

Youth from the Washington City and University Park Churches *of the Brethren participated in the 1999 Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon*

Department of Agriculture food usage, and actually run the entire program without a director for two weeks. While some days may be difficult, these experiences have really strengthened our confidence to live beyond our comfort zones.

I have personally felt the differences that God has made in my life by following his will and setting it before my personal wants and desires. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke all record Jesus' teaching to a rich young man who was dismayed at Christ's command to sell his possessions and give to the poor. Luke 18: 29 and 30 state: "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who will not get back very much more in this age, and in the age to come eternal life."

Five months ago I was a fresh, young, somewhat hesitant teenager who was not sure about his cooking skills. Now I have gained experience, wisdom, confidence, friends, brothers, some peace of mind, and a deeper appreciation for how God cares for all his children (even me). I give thanks to God daily for all he's blessed me with, and I thank BVS for providing me the chance to work with Georg in "making a difference" at the Washington City Church of the Brethren Nutrition Program.

For more information on how to get involved in the Brethren Nutrition Program, contact the director, Fred Anderson, at 202-546-8706 or 202-547-5924 or send e-mail to: alicem-a@juno.com or ntfumbela@aol.com.

Michael J. Lawrence, 19, is a BVSer from Florin Church of the Brethren in Mount Joy, Pa. Georg Krause-Vilmar, 20, is a BVSer/Eirene volunteer from Kassel, Germany.

Help the Homeless Walkathon

Brethren Nutrition Program supporters will be among the hundreds participating in the Help the Homeless Walkathon in Washington, D.C., Nov. 18. The walkathon will help raise money for the Brethren Nutrition Program at the Washington City Church of the Brethren as well as other organizations working to overcome homelessness and hunger. Brethren, especially youth and young adults in the Mid-Atlantic District, are asked to join in the walk and to help collect sponsors. The Washington City church group will gather at F and 13th St. NW before heading to Freedom Plaza in Washington, D.C., where the walk will begin at 10:15 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 18. If you cannot walk, but would be interested in sponsoring a walker, contact Ntfombi Penner at ntfumbela@aol.com or the Washington City Church of the Brethren at 202-546-8706 or 202-547-5924. More information on the walkathon is available at www.brethren.org.

The Brethren connection to a saint

by Walt Wiltschek

Katharine Drexel, scheduled for canonization by the Roman Catholic Church this month, had close family connections to the Church of the Brethren.

She is only the second American-born woman to become a saint, joining Elizabeth Ann Seton, founder of the Sisters of Charity. She gave up a life of luxury as part of a prominent Philadelphia family to become a nun, working tirelessly for the poor until her death in 1955.

Her mother, Hannah Jane Langstroth Drexel, was baptized by the then-German Baptist Brethren in 1850 and was buried in the Germantown Brethren cemetery in Philadelphia when she died just 34 days after Katharine's birth. (Her body was moved to a family chapel in 1946.) Katharine's grandmother, whom she visited weekly, wore traditional "plain dress," and other relatives on the Langstroth side were also Brethren. The Drexel family who raised her, however, was Roman Catholic.

Not surprisingly, Katharine Drexel is the first Catholic saint to have a Brethren parent. Her unusual story is among those featured in the Brethren Press book *Preaching in a Tavern*, by Kenneth I. Morse.

Calls for Drexel's canonization began soon after her death on March 3, 1955, and Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia introduced a formal petition to this effect in 1964.

She was beatified by Pope John Paul II, earning the title of "Blessed" on Nov. 20, 1988. The step came after the Vatican confirmed Drexel's first miracle, a cure of deafness attributed to her intercession for which "no natural cause" could be found. Last January the Pope credited her with a second miracle, the 1994 cure of a seven-year-old's deafness in Pennsylvania, paving the way for Drexel's sainthood. Philadelphia becomes the first US diocese to have two canonized saints.

"This is a truly joyous occasion for all of us," Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia, said in a press release. He called Drexel "a shining example to all believers and to all people of good will."

Drexel became a nun when she took a vow of poverty at age 30, giving her share of the significant family inheritance

Saint Katharine Drexel *in the habit of her order, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.*

Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament

to charity and educational projects. Believing that "we are all people of God," she became particularly involved in the welfare of blacks and American Indians. She founded numerous schools for children in these groups—including the first mission school for American Indians, in New Mexico, and Xavier University in New Orleans, La.

She also founded a religious order called Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament near Philadelphia in 1891. The order continues today in Bensalem with a focus on social justice issues, and Drexel is buried in a shrine at the site. Thousands of people per month have visited the shrine this year, following news of the impending canonization. A church parish near Harrisburg, Pa., and a chapel in Carlisle, Pa., where she established a convent in 1905, also bear her name.

"She was a remarkable woman. To think she had all that wealth and gave it up. She tried to use every penny she could for the poor," said Sister Ruth Catherine Spain, guild director at Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. "She was just one fantastic person, and a very holy person. We're ecstatic about her being canonized, and she's due it, believe me. We're just beside ourselves with joy."

The order planned several special observances to celebrate the canonization. Many of the sisters even planned to travel to the Vatican in Rome for the ceremony, according to Sister Ruth Catherine, who marveled at how quickly the often-lengthy canonization process occurred.

Though Drexel was never Brethren herself, her ministry embodied many ideals that Brethren would embrace. She tried to live simply, using pencils to the nubs and insisting on a handmade, improvised wheelchair when she grew old. She had a heart of great caring for the poor and marginalized. And she believed in being a servant, never asking others to do something she wouldn't do herself. She once said, "Oh, how far I am at 84 years of age from being an image of Jesus in his sacred life on earth!"

Sister Monica Laughlin, president of Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, said she hoped Drexel's life and work would "inspire many to work and pray for greater unity, justice, and peace for all peoples."

Additional details on Drexel's life and ministry can be found at www.katharinedrexel.org.

Sources: *The Brethren Encyclopedia*; Brethren Historical Library & Archives; *The Patriot*, Harrisburg, Pa.; Catholic Online; Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

BRETHRENING

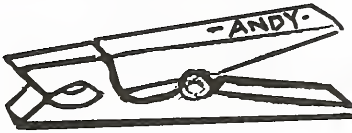
Clothespin memories

I didn't get to direct Kid's Camp at Camp Koinonia this year. After eight years, our kids had outgrown that youngest camp age and my co-director (my wife) and I had moved on to more challenging jobs that made taking the time to direct just a little harder now.

But as I opened the bag of chips and removed the clothespin holding it shut, all the memories of camp came flooding back. For on the clothespin was written "Andy." I'm sorry I don't remember Andy, but I had to quickly look for the bag of wooden clothes pins that we now use to close chips and cereals. A gold mine of memories! There were the pins with names of dozens of campers and counselors: Chelsea, Tony, Bob, Kate, Mike, Aubrey, Piper. . . .

What fun those camps for second and third graders had been! Large group relays, horizontal hour, swimming at the pond, the hay ride, earthball bowling, the three-story egg drop, and, of course, the love note clothesline!

The clothesline was an amazing success and a wonderful example of the power of positive thinking and affirmation. All we did was string the line along a wall in the lodge. Have each camper decorate a clothespin with his or her name. Provide the small pieces of note paper and a few pens. Then give this simple instruction: write as much as you want, to as many as you want, but it must be a positive, friendly note.

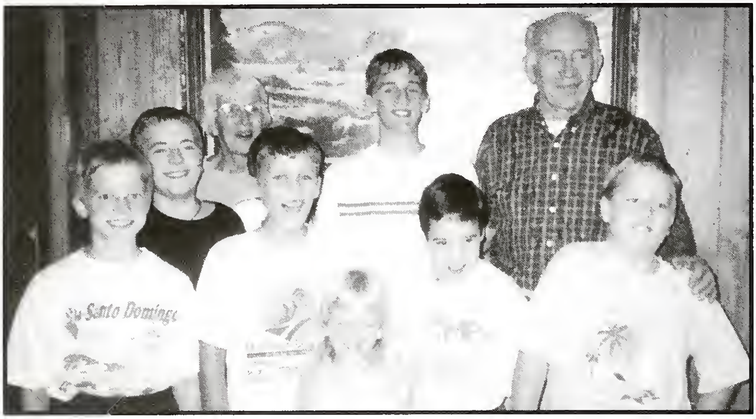


It usually began slowly. A note here or there. We often wrote notes to all the campers thanking them for coming and saying we were glad they were there. The counselors, often afraid that someone might be left out, wrote to each one also. The kids, not wanting to hurt anyone's feelings, often wrote to as many as they could. The notes flew! By the second day the line was smiling with messages sagging the rope. By the last day of camp the paper was gone and the well wishes and positive messages were being written on napkins and envelopes and tree bark and. . . .

What a joy to be part of something so fun, so exciting, so meaningful, so wonder-full. I hope the kids are just a little more confident, or caring, or loving because of their clothespin and a love note or two. And perhaps, Andy can forgive me for not remembering him. I'm sorry Andy. I hope you remember our camp as fondly as I do.—**Ken Neher**

Ken Neher, of Wenatchee, Wash., is director of funding for the Church of the Brethren General Board.

Adventures with GRANDCHILDREN


Karen Crouse

The Crouse grandfamily. *Front row, left to right: Matt Thode, Philip Morris, Christy Bai Crouse, Andrew Thode, Jacob Baile Crouse Second row: Steve Baile Crouse, Jean Crouse, William Morris, Merle Crouse.*

by Berwyn L. Oltman

Grandparents' Day is celebrated once a year, with only a minimum amount of emphasis by the media and limited participation by the public. As families become scattered in today's society, many children have little opportunity for contact with their grandparents. And many grandparents lament the fact that they do not get to see their grandchildren with the frequency that they would like. A visit with the whole family or participation in a large family reunion does not provide the one-on-one contacts that are needed to build helpful relationships.

Merle and Jean Crouse, members of New Covenant Fellowship Church of the Brethren, Gotha, Fla., are typical of many Florida residents who are geographically separated from the majority of their grandchildren. Their rural home at St. Cloud, Fla., is a perfect setting for hosting children. A small barn, a treehouse, a pond which entices fishermen, and a little garden house are great play spaces. Grandfather Merle shares his interest in birds and nature and fishing. Grandmother Jean shares her interest in music and books and stories. When the adult Crouse children bring their families for visits, everyone always has a great time. There are also enjoyable visits in the homes of those families, and an occasional whole family campout in the family cottage in the mountains of West Virginia.

The total family gatherings are great, but Merle and Jean wanted to get to know their growing grandchildren as individuals. Borrowing an idea from their friends, Theresa and John Herr, who had served with them on the mission field in Ecuador, the Crouses decided to plan a special time with each grandchild on his or her 10th birthday. Arrangements are made for the 10-year-old (so far it is grand*sons*) to travel to Florida. Then his grandparents take him to wherever he chooses to go. Four or five days are set

TOOTHLESS: A great-grandchild adventure

On weekends, we great-grandparents pick up 6½-year-old great-granddaughter Amanda for a weekend at our house, and yard, bike, wagon, swings, for Sunday school and church, and some fun. She is enjoyable and learns checkers, trionimos, and how to go through 10 workbooks on math, reading, and writing. Great-granddad handles the math and checker games, and Great-grandma learns primary printing all over again. The "J" is like this "j" nowadays, and the middle lines of "M" come clear down, not halfway. On Sunday mornings we struggle through pantyhose and shoe buckles, and we are surprised how quickly the season's dresses have shrunk, and are hard to button. Great-granddad is ready early because he has class to teach and "people to see" and we ladies are never quite ready to leave home when he is ready.

Last Saturday afternoon she lost her tooth at the playground, "somewhere over by the swings, the bars, the slide, and the climbing tower." It had been loose, but was still intact before she discovered it was "out," "lost," "gone," and her mom would need that tooth to assist the Tooth Fairy, under her pillow.

So we searched every stone, gravel, sand, wood chunk, underneath the play equipment for hours, looking for one small disappeared tooth. One non-exerciser (Great-grandma), was chilly and cold and suggested she'd give one of her own old teeth to use under the pillow. Loud "no!" and "keep looking!"

She discovered a pale cream-colored (maybe) tooth under the climbing ladder and we hallelujahed like we'd found gold and silver, immediately transporting it in a tissue back to her mom for safekeeping. Her mother said to me, "This isn't a tooth!" I suggested she accept it as a bona fide primary tooth or *she* would spend her next few hours bent over sifting playground sand and gravel.—**Dixie McKibben** aside for these adventures.

The first grandchild to reach a 10th birthday was William Morris, son of the Crouses' daughter, Debbie, and Rob Morris, pastor of the Charlottesville (Va.) Church of the Brethren. This 1998 Florida adventure included visits to Splendid China, Busch Gardens, and to Aunt Karen Crouse and her ferrets in south Florida. A day was spent swimming at a beach on the Gulf coast, and there was pool swimming and fishing with Granddad.

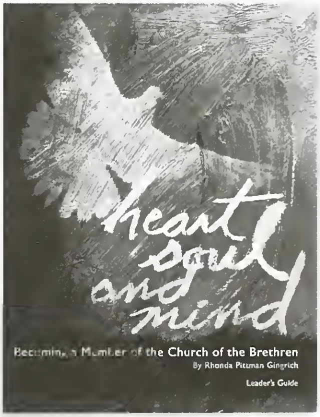
In 1999 two grandsons celebrated 10th birthdays. Matthew Thode, who resides in Orlando with his parents, Peter and Kelly Crouse, chose for his principal activity a round-trip train ride to Miami, including meals in the dining car. The threesome enjoyed a visit to the Miami zoo, a stage play, and a symphony concert in a park. Matthew helped his grandpa build a bridge over a ditch.

Steve Crouse made his first airplane trip alone from the Dominican Republic to spend his days with his grandparents. Steve's parents, Jerry and Becky Baile Crouse, are coordinators for the Church of the Brethren mission work in the D.R. Steve chose a trip to the Everglades and an alligator farm, and to the Florida Keys. A day was spent at Theater of the Sea on Islamorada, and there was deep sea fishing off Key West, swimming, and snorkeling. A visit to Aunt Karen and her ferrets, a sailboat ride, and a day at Busch Gardens rounded out the week.

Andrew Thode, a member of the Peter Crouse family in Orlando, celebrated his 10th birthday this year. Activities he chose included a visit to Walt Disney's Animal Kingdom, a trip to Tallahassee to see the Florida state capitol, travel along the Florida Panhandle, a day at the National Naval Aviation Museum at Pensacola, wading and beachcombing on the Panhandle beaches, a hike in the Suwanee River State Park, and a visit to the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center.

Each of the grandsons has expressed appreciation for and delight with his special time with grandparents. Younger siblings, including the one granddaughter, Christy, who lives with her parents in the Dominican Republic, look forward to their special time. These have been special times for the grandparents also. Jean Crouse comments, "These trips have been a wonderful treat for Grandma and Granddad, too, as we become better acquainted with each lovable, unique grandchild at this stage of his life."

Berwyn L. Oltman is pastor of New Covenant Fellowship Church of the Brethren, Gotha, Fla.


heart soul and mind
Becoming a Member of the Church of the Brethren
By Rhonda Pittman Gingrich
Leader's Guide

"Teacher, which commandment is the greatest?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment."
Matthew 22:36-38

Giving God your heart, soul, and mind is central to the decision to be baptized as a Christian and become a member of the Church of the Brethren. *Heart, Soul, and Mind* is an adaptable membership curriculum for congregations to use with youth and adults who are exploring a deeper commitment to Christian discipleship.

Four units of study explore what Brethren should know about the Bible, church history, living the faith, and church membership. The Leader's Guide (#9922, $24.95) includes reproducible handouts for students, ideas for a mentor program, and an apprenticeship program. The Membership Handbook for students (#9923, $9.95) contains readings, exercises, and journal starters, and is valuable as a keepsake and benchmark of faith development. A video (#9924, $19.95) featuring Brethren youth talking about faith is also available to supplement the curriculum.

Candidates for membership will be engaged —heart, soul, and mind—to love God, love their neighbor, and join in the community of faith.

Brethren Press
This day.

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188 e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

Summer mi

Ministry interns share moments that may change their lives

Walt Wiltschek

At Ministry Summer Service orientation, intern Daniel House gets aquainted with mentor Richard Sisco.

They came together for orientation in Richmond, Ind., in early June, 12 young adults exploring ministry in the Church of the Brethren. Only one of them had tried Ministry Summer Service before, and most of them weren't sure that ministry was where they wanted to end up.

They became acquainted with each other and participated in a service project. They heard from General Board ministry director Allen Hansell and from Bethany Theological Seminary professors. They studied scripture and church polity. They learned about each other and about themselves.

Then they met the mentors with whom they'd be spending the next two months, and they learned something interesting: Most of these ministers now serving the church never expected that they would end up in ministry either!

Through conversation, building a position description together, sharing in worship, and learning about one another's personality, the teams prepared to take the next step.

They heard former Bethany professor Earle Fike, one of the guest speakers for the week, tell them, "God does not expect persons to be fully prepared at the time of the call. God does expect people to use the creative gifts God has given them."

General Board Youth/Young Adult Ministries coordinator Chris Douglas led a commissioning service in which mentors gave a blessing to their respective interns. Then it was time to launch, and the teams scattered to ministry settings across the country. One intern called it time to "test our wings."

Fike also warned the interns that they would be changed people by the end of the summer. "That's what God expects when we answer a call," he said. And he was right.

The summer of ministry taught many lessons. Those are best told in the interns' own words. On the following pages are some of their stories.

sters

Christy Waltersdorff

Worship planning. *Beth Rhodes and pastor Christy Waltersdorff confer on worship ideas and plans for the week.*

Beth Rhodes

Intern at York Center Church of the Brethren, Lombard, Ill.

As I approached the podium, my first sermon in hand, my stomach was churning and my hands were shaking. I was nervous. But as I looked out into the sanctuary, I saw the faces of all the people who had come to mean so much to me over the course of the summer. Smiling up at me were all the children I had babysat, the youth I had become friends with, all the people who had invited me to their homes for delicious meals, and folks I had visited while they were in the hospital. The support and encouragement they had given me all summer was evident now as they slid forward in the pews and listened intently to what I had to say.

Christy Waltersdorff

Taking the pulpit, *Beth Rhodes delivers her first sermon at York Center.*

As I preached, I slowly relaxed and found that I enjoyed giving that sermon. While my friends were sequestered in offices or waiting tables, I was planning worship, teaching Bible school, coordinating special music, and spending time with people of all ages. I woke up every morning excited about my job, excited about the people, and excited about what the day might bring.

I loved every minute of the experience, from preaching to typing the bulletin, because I was invested in the entire process. My mentor, Christy Waltersdorff, is a key to that enthusiasm; her guidance and example have helped me to grow and envision what the future may hold.

When I came to York Center, I had no intention of pursuing the ministry as a career, and now there are times when I cannot imagine doing anything else with my life.

Randall Westfall

Intern at Franklin Grove (Ill.) Church of the Brethren

This summer has been a true spiritual journey. At the beginning of summer I thought I had everything I'd need for this journey, but I found out differently in the weeks to come.

Ministry Summer Service has enabled my calling to go from abstract to concrete. For two years it was just a "calling"; this summer, however, has been "reality." I have grown more this summer than in the past two years combined! And God still continues to open doors and bless me. I am eternally grateful for that.

In the midst of helping to plan worship, preaching a whopping six times, and visiting members of the congregation, I was also able to explore many other forms of ministry. I spent a week as a camp counselor, I was a leader for the community Vacation Bible School, and I taught a class. I have helped with a wedding and a funeral, which gave me an understanding of how people can be ministered to at the start of a new life together and as life draws to a close.

I also spent a day in a state juvenile prison shadowing with the chaplain. Though I do not feel a calling to this ministry, the chaplain explained it best to me that "these are the people that Jesus was ministering to!" Wow! I had never thought of it that way. It was a great experience to be with him that day.

Overall, this summer has allowed me to find my gifts and weaknesses. I truly feel as though I am headed down the path that Jesus wants me to walk. Most importantly, it is the path that He walks with me!

Rochelle Hershey

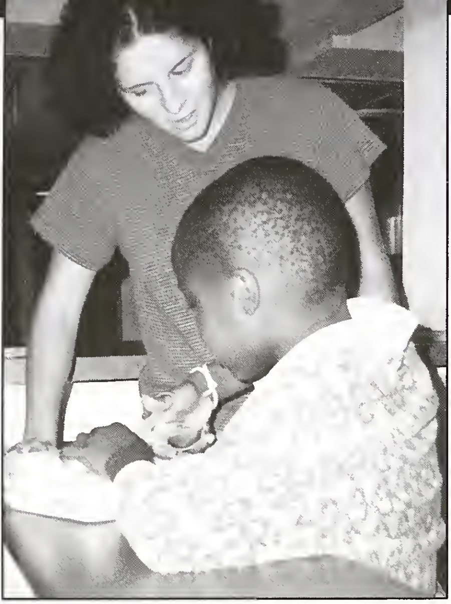
Intern at Wilmington (Del.) Church of the Brethren

Growing up in Lancaster County, Pa., provided me little experience with urban culture, so my Ministry Summer Service experience at the Wilmington Church of the Brethren in Delaware was somewhat of a challenge.

During my time in Wilmington I worked a great deal with their summer lunch program, which provides free lunches for kids in the surrounding neighborhood. Every morning we would receive packaged lunches delivered to us by the state. After the kids were finished eating, there were games for them to play, and every other day I provided a craft for them to work on. We averaged 20 to 25 kids each day.

In addition to the lunch program, I participated in the church by leading worship, doing the children's time, performing a skit, and preaching. The congregation was great at including me in church activities. I assisted with Vacation Bible School in several different capacities and had a blast. I also attended all board meetings and a majority of the commission meetings. It was a learning experience for me to see all the business behind the scenes of the church.

The best parts of my experience were the friendships I gained throughout the summer. The Wilmington congregation will forever be my second church family.


Lee Kinsey

Rochelle Hershey meets with one of the children *in the Wilmington Church of the Brethren's summer lunch program, held in the church's basement.*

Scott McDearmon

Intern at Crest Manor Church of the Brethren, South Bend, Ind.

One more Thursday with Merrilyn. I have been looking forward to Thursday all week. Merrilyn, her daughter Carol, and Carol's husband, Roger, have taken me out to dinner on most Thursdays this summer. It has been a great time for me to relax and just visit for an hour or two. They have shared with me openly, and I with them. I think that openness has been the most surprising aspect of the summer.

The people here in the congregation shared their stories with me whether it was at dinner, church school class, or a birthday party. This sharing, along with other experiences like worship leading and preaching, has given me a taste of what ministry can be like.

While I was in high school I was not very active in the life of the church. I came to the Sunday morning worship service and usually stayed for youth class. I didn't know what was involved in other areas of ministry. I heard announcements about the nurture commission, but I didn't know anything about what its role was. I received a bulletin before the morning service, but I had no idea where it came from, and what kind of work went into putting a worship service together.

After this summer experience I have a new view of what the life of a congregation is like, and for that I'm very grateful.

Kendra Flory

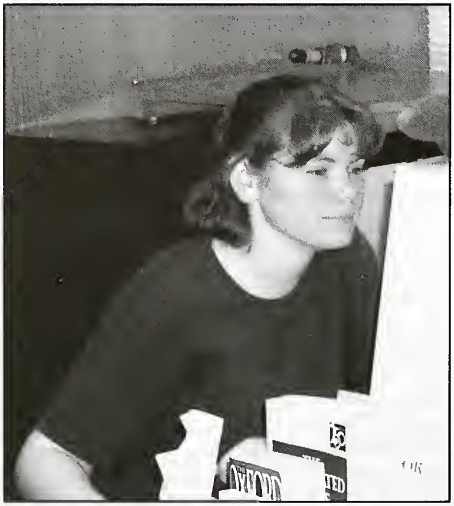
Intern at Brethren Press Communications Office, Elgin, Ill.

It was déjà vu. As I walked into my new office in Elgin, I remembered standing in that same doorway only a few years before talking to a family friend who was working there at the time. (My family had stopped for a tour of the General Offices that summer.) Our friend told us briefly about his role in the communications department at Brethren Press, and I listened with much excitement; that was something I wanted to try.

My interest in communications sparked in high school, and my experience and skills in that area have been growing slowly but steadily ever since. I have often thought about pursuing this field further, but at this point in my life I have had a hard time envisioning myself in careers straying far from the central life of the church. So when the idea to spend Ministry Summer Service at Brethren Press was suggested, I jumped on the opportunity.

The short summer was full of writing articles of denominational happenings, working with layouts and desktop publishing, taking pictures, visiting with "family" members of the wider church, building new and wonderful relationships, learning more about the church from the denominational view, and continuing to discern where God is leading me.

The call to work for God through the Church of the Brethren—whether it


Walt Wiltschek

Kendra Flory *concentrates on an issue of Agenda in the Brethren Press communications office.*

be denominational, pastoral, educational, or a direction I haven't even considered yet—has been churning inside of me for a long time. My time spent in MSS has assured me that the call is very real and helped me to explore another avenue for ministry within the church.

This was the fifth summer for Ministry Summer Service, a joint program of the General Board's Youth/Young Adult and Ministry offices and Bethany Theological Seminary. Applications for both interns and congregations or other ministry locations for summer 2001 will be due in February. Contact the Youth/Young Adult Office at 800-323-8039 for more details.

Walt Wiltschek and Kendra Flory edited this feature.

Where interns worked

The name of the mentor is listed in parentheses.

Jessica Baker, of Palmyra, Pa., interned at Palmyra (Pa.) Church of the Brethren (Dennis Lohr)

Stacey Bowman, of McAlisterville, Pa., interned at Modesto (Calif.) Church of the Brethren (Bonnie Kline Smeltzer)

Eric Christiansen, of Franklin Grove, Ill., interned at Bella Vista Church of the Brethren, Los Angeles, Calif. (Dan Moody)

Kendra Flory, of McPherson, Kan., interned at Brethren Press Communications Office, Elgin, Ill. (Walt Wiltschek)

Rochelle Hershey, of Ephrata, Pa., interned at Wilmington (Del.) Church of the Brethren

Josih Hostetler, of Bremen, Ind., interned at Chambersburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren (Ken Gibble)

Daniel House, of Nokesville, Va., interned at Akron (Pa.) Church of the Brethren (Richard Sisco)

Jill Noffsinger, of Elkhart, Ind., interned at Oakton (Va.) Church of the Brethren (Kurt Borgmann)

Scott McDearmon, of Milledgeville, Ill., interned at Crest Manor Church of the Brethren, South Bend, Ind. (Larry Fourman)

Beth Rhodes, of Roanoke, Va., interned at York Center Church of the Brethren, Lombard, Ill. (Christy Waltersdorff)

Dion Stephey, of Johnstown, Pa., interned at Tire Hill (Pa.) Church of the Brethren (Jack Rupert)

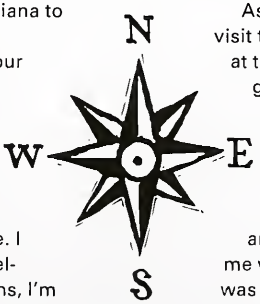
Randall Westfall, of Greenville, Ohio, interned at Franklin Grove (Ill.) Church of the Brethren (Bill Christiansen)

BRETHRENING

Directions and connections

Last spring, my daughter and I traveled from Indiana to visit my sister in Chapel Hill, N.C. Because it had been two years since our last trip, and because our map was old, I decided to stop at the North Carolina Welcome Center to check the route.

I was grateful to find a very helpful gentleman who told me that a new highway had been completed which would make the rest of our trip shorter than I had anticipated. He told me what to watch for and how long it would take. I breathed a silent prayer of thanks as I left the Welcome Center; if I had not stopped to ask directions, I'm sure our trip would've taken an extra hour.



Two months later, I was volunteering for the Brethren Press bookstore at Annual Conference in Kansas City. As a couple came to the cash register, I noticed that their name tags indicated they were from Mt. Airy, North Carolina. I said, "Mt. Airy. Isn't that close to Interstate 77?" (Making connections is half of what Annual Conference is for, right?) They said yes. Then I said, "Isn't that where the new highway is?" Again, they agreed.

As I rang up their purchase, I told them about my visit to North Carolina in the spring, how I had stopped at the Welcome Center to get directions, and how glad I was that I had done that. They both looked at me rather intently and then one of them asked, "Was it an older gentleman who gave you directions?" I said that it was.

Three minutes later, they returned to the cash register accompanied by another person, and said, "Is this the man you talked to?" He asked me what day I had come through, and we decided it was certainly him!

Some times I think I talk too much, but that day at Brethren Press, I'm glad I tried to make a connection. I look forward to stopping at the North Carolina Welcome Center next time I make the trip; even if I don't need directions, I can say hi to brother Bobby Hiatt, a member of First Church of the Brethren, Mount Airy, N.C.—**Rachel Gross**

Rachel Gross is a member of Manchester Church of the Brethren, North Manchester, Ind.

What to do unto "others"

Engage them, as part of the covenant community

by Chris Bowman

An old article by Walter Brueggemann recently caught my eye. He was writing about the relationship between the "people of faith" and the "other" (insiders and outsiders). Though the "other" is usually seen as a threat, Brueggemann points out that the "other" often becomes an opening for life through the biblical concept of covenant.

In the biblical concept of covenant, we form a community in which we say to each other and to God that we're in this together, we're in it for the long run, we're moving toward the same goal, searching for the same treasure, and following the same God. It is as though we enter a "quest" together. It's not so much a caravan or pilgrimage, both of which have some predetermined destination in mind. Rather, we enter a journey together in which we search for a shared goal. In our case, we quest for the Kingdom of God.

In joining this quest, the "other" often brings an opening for life to the community they join. Think of the biblical story of Ruth. She was a Moabite woman. Her "type" was not allowed into the assembly of worship—not even to the tenth generation (Deut. 23:3). Yet she was the mother of Obed who was the grandfather of King David (Ruth 4:13ff). Obed traced his father's family back to Tamar—an "other" of another sort (Gen. 38).

Unfortunately, the line between insider and outside is not easily crossed. Today's news is filled with fodder for otherness thinking. Racial quota language is replacing that of affirmative action. States are trying to find ways to avoid paying for the needs of illegal aliens. Several shooting sprees by white supremacists turn the divisions deadly. One political candidate argues that the influx of "other folks" is an issue of national security. We are constantly barraged with news about who is "us" and who is "not us."

Grandma saw a time when women could not vote. Dad remembers the time when blacks were not allowed to sit in the front of the bus. In my generation we have people like Henry Jordan, a member of South Carolina's board of education, who said, "Screw the Buddhists and kill the Muslims! And put that in the minutes." (Later, trying to defend his statement, he said, "All I want to do is promote Christianity.")

Sometimes it seems that we believe that evil, sin, or perversity are outgrowths of the ideology of the "other." We forget that there's plenty of evil, sin, and perversity to go around. Outsiders and insiders share an original ability to fall prey to these powers. The line between good and evil runs through the individual heart, not neatly around groups or prejudices.

The church, as a microcosm of our prejudiced world, also struggles with issues of "other." As we experience the broadening of the church, we recognize that the old ways of doing things no longer apply with the same universal quality they once did. New diversity breaks into our structured worlds. The first time I saw purple hair at Annual Conference I realized that the business we are about is no longer business as usual.

When the "other" infiltrates our world, we often renew our interest in a fundamentalism of belief, or structure, or truth. We redouble our efforts to make things like they used to be (or like we remember them being)—when there was certainty, authority, and order. The church works to recapture a time when we spoke for God and God spoke for us. We compile creeds, reiterate doctrinal teachings, and pass denominational statements clarifying "truth." Our first response to the influx of change is to circle the wagons.

The second response is to fragment the foe. We so splinter the new voices that none is taken seriously by the body or by each other. "Others" are divided into caucuses, fellowships, and special interest groups. They grapple for power. Each group claims to carry the "truth" irrespective of and unrelated to the other "others." We associate through liaison relationships. If they are feeling particularly generous, the "powers that be" name an office or staff position to care for a particular "other."

Currently, conservatives and liberals, evangelicals and traditionalists, fundamentalists and mainline folks can't see eye to eye. Urban, suburban, and rural congregations look at life

If we only see each "other" as threat or competition, we lose the opening for life through the biblical concept of covenant.

and each other differently. Red and yellow, black and white may be precious in God's sight, but often less so to each other. Homosexuals are at the front line of "other-ness" theology in our day.

If we only see each "other" as threat or competition, we lose the opening for life through the biblical concept of covenant. Unless we fully engage each "other" in the community of faith, we face a stunted, tunnel-vision view of God.

To engage each other is to see ourselves together as full partners in the covenant community. We share together honestly about our differences while affirming our common quest. We do not ignore our differences but instead see beyond them to God's claim on our lives as individuals and on our life together.

By "engage" I do not mean that we idolize other-ness because it is different, new, and "other." We falter as we assume that every new or different voice is God-spoken. Instead of looking afresh for the word of God within the "other" we sometimes celebrate diversity for the sake of diversity. The "other" is not God.

Nor does "engage" suggest that the body remains unchanged by the encounter. We cannot suppose that the way things always have been is the way God intends them to be. Too often we stumble by assuming that a new voice is not God-spoken.

Those in charge tend to believe that God wants them to be in charge. On the other hand, those who rally behind the flag of "other" tend to believe that God predominantly resides with those on the margins of society. All the while God's spirit is dancing between the two, refusing to be confined by our boundaries or our tolerance.

The wonder is that within this "dance" the Spirit calls us to a Holy Quest. The insiders and the outsiders, the "us" and the "not-so-us," are invited to join in the journey expecting, through the covenant community, to find new openings for discovering and entering the Kingdom of God. Our goal should be to fully engage each other and thus break down the distinction between slave and free, Greek or Jew, male or female "...so that we may become co-workers with the truth."

Look at what happened when the earliest church faced this same challenge. Acts 15 is the story of the Jerusalem Council. The "new brethren" up in the Gentile country wanted to know if they had to become Jewish before they could become Christian. Must we follow the 616 Jewish regulations in order to follow Jesus?

The response of the earliest church is enlightening. They did not circle the wagons and defend their historic way of being faithful. They did not fragment the foe by creating liaison relationships with the various Gentile churches. They engaged the other! More than just compromise, their response was one of relationship. A letter was written. Apostles visited the "other" congregation. There "was much rejoicing."

The influx of "other" into the earliest church, and the way the church responded to that challenge, paved the way for the explosion of their evangelistic efforts. The church had clarified to itself and to others what it meant to be a covenant community. Engaging each "other" in the common quest opened the church then, and invites the church now, to encounter the Spirit which brings new life. M.

Chris Bowman, former chair of the General Board, is pastor of Memorial Church of the Brethren, Martinsburg, Pa.

Within this "dance," the insiders and the outsiders are invited to join in the journey expecting to find new openings for discovering and entering the Kingdom of God.

> "I've lived more with a feeling of the disconnect between Boy Scouts and Church of the Brethren values than any sense of harmony, although completing requirements for my God and Country Award turned me toward Youth Camp at Camp Mack, a fork in the road which made all the difference in my life's direction."

Memories of scouting

Thanks, Fletcher, for your thoughts and meditations on life lessons learned through scouting experiences (see Editorial, July). Boy Scout activities (hiking, camping, knots, and first aid) were also a significant part of my early adolescence. Your memories of your Order of the Arrow initiation rekindled my own (including raw eggs for breakfast after my flickering fire failed).

I've lived more with a feeling of the disconnect between Boy Scouts and Church of the Brethren values than any sense of harmony, although completing requirements for my God and Country Award turned me toward Youth Camp at Camp Mack, a fork in the road which made all the difference in my life's direction.

So thanks for reminders of a circle "lodge" enough to include some that our beloved church has more trouble including—even the likes of such a one as me—and for a bit of yeast to help hallow my memories of scouting.

Tim Sollenberger Morphew
New Paris, Ind.

Open letter of gratitude from the past moderator

Dear sisters and brothers,

For nearly two years, many cards, e-mails, and letters have been received with words of encouragement, pledges of prayer, verses of scripture, and other words of wisdom. Upon our return from Annual Conference, there were dozens more and they continue to trickle in. I am in awe of so many expressions of loving support, of genuine caring for the church as well as for me personally. A leadership role can be lonely. Thank you for keeping me company on the path to seek God's yearning for us as a denomination.

My preference would be to respond to each individually so you could know in what ways your particular words have touched my life with God's grace. Realizing that to respond personally is hardly possible, I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you. During Conference there were little treats and notes left at the officers table with no name. I'm glad God knows your name and will bless you for your thoughtfulness.

I'm asking that you continue this kind of support with Bros. Phill Carlos Archbold, our current moderator, and Paul Grout, moderator-elect. And how about words of appreciation for others in leadership roles? These include the Annual Conference office, Program and Arrangements Committee, as well as staff and board members of the five accountable/reportable agencies. A human tendency is to be quick to criticize and slow to offer words of appreciation. Let's work together to reverse that trend! You've already made a great start!

"Always be joyful in your union with the Lord…show a gentle attitude toward everyone…fill your minds with those things that deserve praise…"(from Philippians 4, *Good News*).

"Love as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

Emily Mumma
Duncansville, Pa.

Simple name suggestion

A simple name for ourselves can be like a flower that has its own beauty and also shares beauty with others.

"Christian" immediately points to our Christ-centered relatedness. "Community" is a word with positive connotations and points toward togetherness, equality, and peace.

Trying to put too much in our name becomes cumbersome. We can leave a few more specifics for our tag line: Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Christian Community Church is simple and yet communicates positively and powerfully.

Roger Eberly
Milford, Ind.

Ministry of Brethren homes

Thank you for the excellent featured section of the August MESSENGER which focused on the 24 Church of the Brethren homes across the country. It was exciting to read of the services provided by these organizations and the recognition of our work as a vital aging and health care ministry within the denomination.

Gary N. Clouser, President
Brethren Village, Lancaster, Pa.

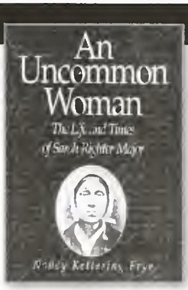
Ask growing churches

It was a bit disconcerting to read in the July MESSENGER that membership in the denomination continues to decline, (1.2 percent in 1999 and 5.7 percent since 1993). This is a struggle we have had since the mid-1960s. As I recall we started excusing it by saying that churches were purging their rolls. It sounds good but the decline has continued through the 70s then the 80s and now the 90s.

I think it's fair to say, though, that some congregations grew during that period. Some doubled and almost tripled. There may well be some answers as to how that happened and what was effective in accomplishing those increases.

I realize that some of those pastors in growing churches do not have long pedigrees following their names, and I know that the things we have tried at the recommendation of folks who do have the list of letters haven't worked for more than three decades. So maybe it's time to swallow our pride and visit some of the smaller churches that have grown and find out what they are doing and then follow the example.

After all, we are all serving the same God and preaching the same forgiveness through the same Christ. So if

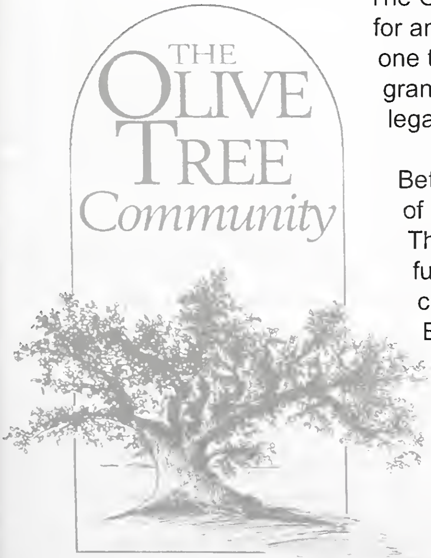


Man, that woman can preach.

An Uncommon Woman:
The Life and Times of Sarah Righter Major

Nancy Kettering Frye, *Brethren Press*. Infamous in the mid 1800s as a woman preacher in a man's world, Sister Sarah bravely preached the gospel wherever people invited her to speak. Nancy Kettering Frye provides details, facts, and stories about the life of the first female Brethren preacher. Step into the 19th century and meet the men and women who influenced Sarah Righter Major's life and supported her preaching ministry.#8224. $6.95

Brethren Press
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org



The Olive Tree has been a source of food, fuel, furnishings and oil for anointing for over 6,000 years. Because it matures very slowly—one tree can live for over a thousand years—parents and grandparents plant olive trees for their children, leaving a valuable legacy for the next generation.

Bethany's ***Olive Tree Community*** joins together a special group of friends who have a similar commitment to the Seminary. Through deferred and estate gifts, they are leaving a legacy for future generations to nurture the leadership needed for our children, grandchildren and new children in the Church of the Brethren.

We invite you to become a member of the ***Olive Tree Community.*** When you make your will, purchase life insurance, start a retirement plan or review your current estate plan, why not consider including ***BETHANY*** as a beneficiary for part or all of the proceeds.

Contact Lowell Flory at 800-287-8822 for more information.

> "So maybe it's time to swallow our pride and visit some of the smaller churches that have grown and find out what they are doing and then follow the example."

we can learn something, even if it is from a country bumpkin preacher, we ought to do it if it will further the kingdom of God.

Bill Stovall
Retired pastor, Bassett, Va.

Tell someone about Jesus

I am back home from Annual Conference in Kansas City. As a delegate, I voted on Standing Committee's answer to the query on Personal Evangelism and Church Growth, which affirms the intent of calling for a stronger emphasis on evangelism, and calling congregations to a more concerted effort for an evangelistic emphasis.

We do not have to wait for another program or committee. Because of this query, I went to the display booth for New Life Ministries. The New Life Ministries program is a cooperative initiative for evangelism and church vitality in the Anabaptist/Believers Church tradition. It has an abundance of helpful resources.

Yet I know that over 98 percent of my own home congregation has never heard of NLM. The resources are plentiful. The programs for evangelism have been available. But who will *do* evangelism?

The bottom line for me is: I must tell someone about Jesus. Jesus promises to enable us with power to be his witnesses (Acts 1:8), but few want to try it. I have the resources from my denomination and others, and I am empowered by Jesus him-

CLASSIFIED ADS

Christian Family Practice group is seeking a family physician and/or a physician extender (PA-C or RN-FNP) to join our growing practice. We are located in North Central Indiana, near Goshen. We provide obstetrics with many deliveries done at an Amish Birthing Center near Shipshewana. Opportunities for short- or long-term missions. Independently owned (six physicians & one PA) and committed to remaining sensitive to the needs of the local community. Option to buy in. Contact Steve Wendler, Administrator, at Middlebury Family Physicians, PO Box 459, Middlebury, IN 46540. Day telephone: 219-825-2900 Evening: 219-825-7506.

North Manchester Indiana Family Practice Clinic is seeking Board Certified Family Practice Physicians. You would be joining our group of 3 FP's and 1 NP who practice the full continuum of Primary Care including Obstetrics, Inpatient and Preventative Medicine in a small college town. Our clinic is across the street from Manchester College, a liberal arts college with an enrollment of 1100 students. Located in NE Indiana on the Eel River, North Manchester, population 6500, is only 20 minutes form Wabash County Hospital with OB/GYN and a wide range of specialty support available. Tertiary hospital available in nearby Fort Wayne. Our community has its own symphony, a superb new library with childrens programs, fine schools and two major non-profit retirement homes(one CoB). Tour our town at www.nmanchester.com. For additional information about our opportunity please contact Lynn Hatfield, Director of Physician Recruitment at 1-800-727-8439, ext. 22183 or email at lhat@parkview.com.

The Association of Brethren Caregivers is seeking a full-time Coordinator of Shared Services to assist the Executive Director with programming and services to the association and the Fellowship of Brethren Homes, a ministry with Brethren retirement communities. Ideal candidates will demonstrate the following qualifications: working knowledge of the mechanisms and processes which impact services to the aging; experience in retirement community management; understanding of Church of the Brethren heritage; bachelor's degree in a related field; proficiency in interpretation and consensus building; comfort providing leadership in an environment with diverse interests; excellent communication, organization and computer skills. The position, located in Elgin, Illinois, is available on January 1, 2001. Direct inquiries or send letters of application with résumé and three references to Steve Mason, Executive Director, ABC, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120.

Position available: Full-time additional staff needed at Goshen City Church of the Brethren, Goshen, IN. Person will assist in areas of community outreach, young adult and youth ministries, contemporary worship, and Christian education. Bachelors degree minimum. Contact Northern Indiana District Office, (219) 773-3149.

Position available: Executive Director for COBYS Family Services, an agency of the Atlantic Northeast District. Programs include Foster Care, Adoption, Teen Mother and Child Group Home, Counseling and Parent Education. Graduate degree required; MSW preferred. Should have experience in the human service setting. Supervisory and/or administrative experience required. Send resume by December 1, 2000 to Search committee, COBYS Family Services, 1417 Oregon Road, Leola, PA 17540.

Travel with a purpose. Visit the "Cradle of Civilization," March 16-29, 2001. Featuring: crossing the Red Sea, visiting Mt. Sinai, cruising on the Sea of Galilee, cable car ride to Massada. Visit Petra, the rose city, Jerusalem, The Holy Land, St. Catherine Monastery on Mt. Sinai. Full breakfast and dinner throughout. For information write Wendell and Joan Bohrer, 8520 Royal Meadow Drive, Indianapolis, IN. 46217. Tel/fax 317-882-5067. E-mail rdwboh@aol.com.

Travel to the White Continent—Cruise to Antarctica—including visits to Argentina and Uruguay, January 7-20, 2001. Optional visits to Chile and Iguassau Falls available. For information please write to J. Kenneth Kreider, 1300 Sheaffer Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

Palms Estates in Florida. Come and join 73 year-round homeowners and 36 RV-site campers at the growing Palms Estates in Lorida, Florida, while enjoying Florida's heartland and ready access to theme parks, urban attractions and airports. Member of the Fellowship of Brethren Homes, our independent living community offers fishing on Lake Istokpoga and our connecting canal, extensive fellowship, recreational and craft activities, friendly wildlife, adjacent Church of the Brethren, and nearby golf, cattle ranches, citrus groves and Amtrak. Call 863-655-1909.

self. Girded by prayer, and allowing God to use me, do I have the courage to take the step to tell someone about Jesus?

Sarah L. Markey
York, Pa.

Keep working on racism

Thank you for your editorial, "Let's talk about race" (August). I find it interesting how racism seems to get our attention when it is between whites and others of a different color. It is my observation that every group engages in discrimination within their own group.

The problem is accentuated by the growing emphasis on the rights of every individual. A part of the problem is the lack of recognizing and accepting that the desires of individuals are often in conflict with the desires of others. There used to be a saying: "My freedom ends where your nose begins." My belief that God is the sole creator, and the source of our different temperaments increases the mystery of how to deal with the whole problem.

> "I find it interesting how racism seems to get our attention when it is between whites and others of a different color. It is my observation that every group engages in discrimination within their own group."

My only answer is, "Keep working at it."

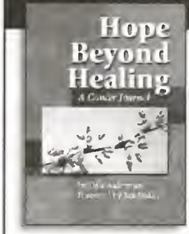
Phil Zinn
Tampa, Fla.

Put Gospel back in Messenger

I was intrigued by the disappearing word "Gospel" in Wendy McFadden's message "From the publisher" in the July issue. The evolutionary designs [of the MESSENGER nameplate] first gave equal billing to the word, then shrinking, and in the last several designs, it was gone completely. It occurred to me to look to see if other old standby words were missing as well.

There were a few acknowledgments of God here and there but, in the entire issue, I saw no other reference to the Gospel and the only mentions of Jesus that I saw were on an unnumbered advertisement insert between pages 24 and 25 and in the letters. A computer search of the text might pick up a couple that I missed but not the message of the MESSENGER. We have a social gospel message, and that is

"If we suddenly find ourselves face to face with dying, we come up against ultimate questions. . . . After I received the diagnosis of advanced lung cancer, I needed to deal with those questions more intensely than I ever had before."
—Dale Aukerman



Hope Beyond Healing: A Cancer Journal by Dale Aukerman available now from Brethren Press for $14.95 plus shipping and handling charges.

Brethren Press
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188
e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

Brethren Business Network

Serving
God and
Neighbor
Through
[illegible]
[illegible]

Join other Brethren in business for support, networking, learning, and service.
www.brethrenbusinessnetwork.net
info@brethrenbusinessnetwork.net
(219) 982-5232

good, but except for some advertising and some letters to the editor, we have no Good News. Perhaps the gradual demise of our denomination is the Holy Spirit working in our world?

Wayne Bishop
Pasadena, Calif.

Churches need Christlike vision

Robin Wentworth Mayer's article in the July MESSENGER is on target. The local church loses out when it has no vision.

As a pastor for 35 years and having served on district boards and committees, I have seen churches close their doors due to a dwindling population, no interest, and no vision. I have wondered what happened.

Currently there are churches struggling with decreased budgets, suffering a low morale and relational tensions, as well as conflicts over leadership and polity values. I have recently experienced the downward spiral of a Church of the Brethren congregation because of conflicts in pastoral leadership and the laity.

> "The local church can overcome barriers where there is a positive vision of love, and where Jesus Christ is Lord over all. Any church renewal program will fail if the people don't share a Christlike vision."

The local church can overcome barriers where there is a positive vision of love, and where Jesus Christ is Lord over all. New Life Ministries, or any church renewal program, will fail if the people don't share a Christlike vision.

Earl Hammer
Retired pastor, Waynesboro, Va.

This month's Turning Points includes all listings received prior to 8/25/00 not previously published. Forms for submitting Turning Points information are available by calling Peggy Reinacher at 800-323-8039.

New members

Ankeny, Iowa: Alice Draper

Blue Ridge, Va.: Polly Creasy

Carlisle, Pa.: Marion Bachleda, Glenn Bowser, Bill Crouse, Sandy Crouse, Doris Fair, Rebecca Gates, Donja Hinson, George Smith, Elaine Smith, Jaclyn Bailey, Kristen Bailey, Lyndsey Mulholland

Cedar Creek, Garrett, Ind.: Sheena Gerber, Travis Putnam, Dylan Graft, Colby Knott, Kyle Yarde

Cincinnati, Ohio: Jim Deeter, Jeanne Deeter, Mel Simmons, Renee Wilson

Coventry, Pottstown, Pa.: Lisa O'Brien, Christine High, Crystal Moore, Janet Swavely

Dupont, Ohio: Cheryl Geckle, Rylee Ulm, Emily Workman, Terry Webb, Crystal Webb, Michelle Noffsinger, Alicia Simindinger, Sheena Simindinger

East Chippewa, Orrville, Ohio: Samantha Durtschi

First Central, Kansas City, Kan.: Eunice Wachira

Four Mile, Liberty, Ind.: Dustin Collett, Matt Deaton, Brian Deaton, Vince Deaton, Lori Deaton, Brian Creek, Linda McCashland, Donna Leverton, Larry Raper.

Harrisburg, Pa.: Butch Eisenhour, Lois Strickland, Roger Steffy, Carol Steffy, Dave Weaver-Zercher, Valerie Weaver-Zercher, Brendon McCabe

Maple Grove, Ashland, Ohio: Paul Myers, Ella Myers, Brenda Henderson, June Tritle, Joe Woodring, Barbara Woodring

Montezuma, Dayton, Va.: Dennis Huffman, Wayne Huffman, Erika Kinkead, Josh Kinkead, Greg Losh, Lori Losh, Austin McNett, Kathryn Roche, Katy Roche

Mountville, Pa.: Miriam Plack, Tom Ritchie, Frances Shaub, Brandon Shenk, Laura Wagner, Zachary Musser, J. Michael Long, Geoffrey Hess, Christopher Barto, Jacob Thomas, Lauren Ortega, Lisa Boshnaugle, Gina Ruffini, Joseph Ruffini, Nicholas Ruffini, Joel B. Musser, Cody Staab, Erin Staab, Sarah Over

Moxham, Johnstown, Pa.: Gregory Jacoby, Joyce Mahon, Steven Wilson

Palmyra, Pa.: George Hinkle, Arthur Zellers, Craig Biddle, Michelle Biddle, Amanda Sweeney, Heather Houff, Todd Albaugh, Cindy Albaugh, Jeff Rudder, Ira Light, Jr.

Panther Creek, Adel, Iowa: Missy Buchman, Kyle McCord, Robert Sells, Jr., Lynn Swinger, Courtney Zeimet, Jason Hughes, Rick Rice, Denise Rice, Rustin Rice, Brandi Rice, Deena Rice, Johna Sells

Pine Creek, North Liberty, Ind.: Hanna Bachtel, Shoshanna Bachtel

Pleasant Dale, Decatur, Ind.: Haley Byerly, David Manley, Michelle Manley

Poplar Ridge, Defiance, Ohio: Howard Peuhler, Vicki Peuhler

Prairie City, Iowa: Dean Timmons, Molly Timmons, Dan Graham, Julie Martinache, Jessica Johnson, Jennifer Nolin, Dana Ayers, Garnet Van Winkle, Linda Graham

Ridgeway Community, Harrisburg, Pa., Christopher Roof, Kelsey Yost, Dustin Bauknight, James Evans, Stephen Zug, Jr.

Scalp Level, Windber, Pa.: Dennis Berkey, Marilyn Berkey, Ruth Felix, Robert Hostetler, Wilma Hostetler

Skyridge, Kalamazoo, Mich.: Beverly Brady

Spring Creek, Hershey, Pa.: Daniel Ackerman, Kristine Ackerman, Denise Fair, Allen Grow, Judy Grow, Rachael Jordan, Peter Kontra, Shelley Kontra, Joseph Lipinsky, Kathi Lipinsky, Robert Rhodes, Donna Rhodes, Brandon Rhodes

Spring Run, McVeytown, Pa.: Ashley Gromis, Daniel Swigart, Shannon Himes

Stone, Huntingdon, Pa.: Dale Dowdy, Christy Dowdy, David Witkovsky, Kim Witkovsky, Matthew Witkovsky, Rachel Witkovsky, Hanna Pingry, Jacob Wenger

Sugar Creek, West, Lima, Ohio: Phyllis Borger, Kristin Hackworth, Jennifer Jones, Matthew Jones, Stephanie White, Nancy Burnett, Lynne Alger, Karen Applegate

Sugar Ridge, Custer, Mich.: Pamela Rose Clark

Swatara Hill, Middletown, Pa.: Crystal Dehmey, Melissa Carn, Mark Messick

Trotwood, Ohio: Tom Barnes

Welty, Smithsburg, Md.: Clark A. Clipp, Susie Clipp

West Goshen, Goshen, Ind.: Beth Hochstetler

Wichita, Kan.: Holly Hulbert, Carol Hulbert, Duane and Jane Ramsey, Gerald and Nancy Minns, Danielle Wilson, Christopher Minns, Chris Blurton, Aaron Melhorn, Katie Hill

Wedding anniversaries

Brandt, Robert and Anna, Elizabethtown, Pa., 50

Brannan, Nelson and Ruth, Lewistown, Pa., 60

Carothers, Charles II and Ethel, Boiling Springs, Pa., 60

Cressman, Clark and Fay, Phoenixville, Pa., 60

Fickes, Leroy and Doris, Newville, Pa., 50

Flora, Russell and Lucille, Tipp City, Ohio, 50

Foust, R. Kenneth and Alice, New Oxford, Pa., 60

Hefner, Joe and Rosella, Lima, Ohio, 60

Herr, Albert and Helen, Royersford, Pa., 55

Hummel, Robert and Eva, Hummelstown, Pa., 50

Kroft, Joe and Gladys, Akron, Ind., 60

Krull, David and Myrtle, New Paris, Ind., 65

Leedy, John R. and Catherine, Gettysburg, Pa., 50

Mallott, Floyd and Donna, Pittsburgh, Pa., 50

Marsden, Charles and Dottie, San Diego, Calif., 50

Merkey, Sam and Shirley, Manheim, Pa., 50

Metzger, Myron and Grace, North Manchester, Ind., 50

Millet, Angel and Lucille, Adrian, Mich., 50

Miner, Emmert Lindy and Doris Jean, Gettysburg, Pa., 50

Parker, Lawrence and Ruth, Norristown, Pa., 50

Patrick, Norman and Beryl, Hershey, Pa., 72
Robison, Ralph and Lucille G., Hillcrest, Calif., 65
Rusmisel, David and Margaret, Lima, Ohio, 60
Shepler, Roy and Martha, Wabash, Ind., 60
Smith, Arthur, Jr. and Katherine, Ashland, Ohio, 60
Smith, Karlton and Peg, Mont Clare, Pa., 50
Tinkey, Norman and Rozella, Akron, Ind., 50
Tomlonson, John D. and Veva M., Goshen, Ind., 50
Ward, Chet and Freda, Troy, Ohio, 60
Witmer, Harry and Sara, Oaks, Pa., 60
Zell, Carl and Mary Ellen, Sidney, Ohio 60

Deaths

Allstot, Richard E. (Dick), East Wenatchee, Wash., Dec. 15
Amstutz, Earl, Orrville, Ohio April 3, 1999
Armentrout, Arreta Virginia, 91, Harrisonburg, Va., July 31
Ausherman, Dorothy M., 92, York, Pa., Aug. 7
Baughman, Carl E., 86, St. Petersburg, Fla., May 24
Bock, Joe, II, Waynesboro, Pa., Dec. 3
Bollinger, Ammon, 87, Manheim, Pa., Jan. 19
Bomberger, Grace, 85, Manheim, Pa., Feb. 19
Bosseman, Willis O., 80, Shippensburg, Pa., Aug. 12
Bouse, Marie E., 85, Silver Lake, Ind., Aug. 21
Boyer, Stuart E., 69, Glen Rock, Pa., July 21
Brown, Alvera, 86, McPherson, Kan., July 31
Brubaker, Robert, 59, Lititz, Pa., Jan. 27
Buckwalter, Marie, 83, Orrville, Ohio, Aug. 10
Burch, Frances Helen Holler, 85, Woodstock, Va., July 18
Bush, Richard, 66, Spring City, Pa., May 17
Carey, Cora, Waynesboro, Pa., Nov. 8
Clatterbuck, Gordon Douglas, Sr., 77, Edinburg, Va., July 12
Cline, Quentin Garber, 72, Weyers Cave, Va., July 8
Conrad, Kenneth, Danville, Ohio, Feb. 13, 1999
Croasmun, Paul A., 53, Hanover, Pa., Aug. 7
Dell, Helen Rebecca Click, 96, Bridgewater, Va., July 14
Dentler, Hazel E., 93, York, Pa., Aug. 6
Detwiler, Rebecca, 90, Harleysville, Pa., July 1
Dews, Marlyn L., 67, East Canton, Ohio, July 3
Dick, Catherine L., 73, Gettysburg, Pa., May 7
Durand, Beatrice, 91, Troy, Ohio, July 17
Eichelberger, Dale W., 64, East Berlin, Pa., July 30
Forror, Elizabeth (Beth), 87, El Cajon, Calif., July 5
Foust, R. Kenneth, 80, New Oxford, Pa., July 9
Garber, Eston Levi, 88, Bridgewater, Va., July 25
Good, Ira, Orrville, Ohio, July 11, 1998
Grim, Nora, 96, Overland Park, Kan., June 29
Harrison, Mildred A., 88, Windber, Pa., July 19
Harville, Helen Marie, 77, Overland Park, Kan., July 10
Hevener, Sam, 66, Lititz, Pa., Dec. 11
Hoffman, Harry W., 71, Johnstown, Pa., Aug. 7
Hostetler, Ammon, Jr., Orrville, Pa., Aug. 24, 1998
Houff, Mary Frances, 82, Staunton, Va., July 28
Ilyes, Charles E., 74, York, Pa., Aug. 6
Johnson, Clara Thelma, 93, Modesto, Calif., Aug. 9
Keyser, Marguerite, 95, Oaks, Pa., July 7
King, Elsie, Waynesboro, Pa., Aug. 15, 1999
King, Steve, Smithville, Ohio, Feb. 21, 1998
Kiracofe, Helen E., 99, Hollidaysburg, Pa., July 14
Kiser, David Austin, 90, Churchville, Va., June 25
Kissinger, Margaret, Waynesboro, Pa., Jan. 13
Klim, Florine, Waynesboro, Pa., Oct. 26
Kurtz, Alice, 84, Lebanon, Pa., Aug. 3
Layman, Cubia Jeanette, 97, Keezletown, Va., July 19
Lehman, Dorthea, 74, Johnstown, Pa., April 4
Lehman, Ralph Edwin, 79, Johnstown, Pa., April 20
Lewis, Violet H., 95, Glen Burnie, Md., Nov. 29
Maser, Alice, Johnstown, Pa., May 31
Mauck, Roy Edward, Sr., 75, Winchester, Va., July 18
McCalla, Donald, 82, Sidney, Ohio, July 22
Meckley, Donald, Waynesboro, Pa., Dec. 27
Metzger, Gale E., 89, Warsaw, Ind., Aug. 6
Meyerhoeffer, Margaret Rodeffer, 93, Bridgewater, Va., July 12
Miller, J. Raymond, 67, East Berlin, Pa., July 29
Mumma, Glenda, Waynesboro, Pa., July 15, 1999
Murray, Nevin, Waynesboro, Pa., Feb. 24, 1999
Myer, Bertha, 87, Manheim, Pa., June 8
Moore, Willie, Wooster, Ohio, March 19, 1997
Parson, Robert, 70, Oaks, Pa., Dec. 18
Pepple, Robert J., 88, New Paris, Ind., July 16
Porter, Anna M., 52, York, Pa., July 29
Raysor, Kathryn, 92, Royersford, Pa., May 14
Richards, Olive, 89, Kokomo, Ind., July 14
Rieley, Lois, 88, Thaxton, Va., June 14
Riffey, Ruby Mae, 91, Toms Brook, Va., July 19
Rivers, Stella, 91, Kokomo, Ind., July 9
Rodeffer, Minnie Shores, 79, McGaheysville, Va., July 6
Royer, Anna Mae, 93, Dallas Center, Iowa, Aug. 15, 1999
Runkle, Esther, 81, Gettysburg, Pa., Aug. 10
Schneider, Nettie, Wooster, Ohio, April 3, 1999
Schiffbaeur, Josephine, 83, Akron, Ohio, July 25
Sherfy, Ralph E., 86, Greenville, Ohio, June 22
Shie, Richard, 85, Wooster, Ohio, Aug. 14
Shively, Abraham, 95, Sidney, Ohio, May 17
Shoup, Olin, 51, Orrville, Ohio, Sept. 3, 1999
Smucker, Jay, 84, Orrville, Ohio, June 24, 1999
Snyder, Eileen E., 80, North Manchester, Ind., April 2
Snyder, Margaret, Waynesboro, Pa., April 20, 1999
Steiner, Harold, Wooster, Ohio, Jan. 27, 1998
Steinle, Ruth, 90, Titusville, Fla., July 28
Strapel, Gladys Nadine, 83, Windber, Pa., Aug. 15
Strawderman, Lucille Fleta, 73, Mathias, W.Va., July 25
Sykora, Margaret (Maggie), 45, Sarasota, Fla., July 24
Tarr, Eunice, 93, Monroeville, Pa., July 8
Timmons, Laura, 93, Orrville, Ohio July 1, 1999
Toms, Joseph, Waynesboro, Pa., July 30, 1999
Toomey, Florence J., 68, York, Pa., Aug. 7
Utz, Norman Taylor, Jr., 73, Brightwood, Va., March 16
Wampler, Refa Pearl, 87, New Market, Va., July 25
Warner, Jeff, 42, San Francisco, Calif., July 22
Weaver, Farrell, 71, Kokomo, Ind., May 29
Weaver, James P., 90, Windber, Pa., July 21
Weaver, Millard H., 90, Windber, Pa., Aug. 3
Webster, Lola Catherine, 80, Moorefield, W.Va., July 21
Weddell, Stanley, Wooster, Ohio, Nov. 30, 1997
Wise, Oscar, 89, Lancaster, Pa., May 29
Wolf, Samuel E., 77, East Berlin, Pa., July 8
Yohe, Winafred V., 82, Abbottstown, Pa., July 21
Younkin, Mary R., Tucson, Ariz., July 18
Zimmerman, Russell Cline, 89, Dayton, Va., July 12

Licensings

Berkey, Holly Jo, Aug. 6, Maple Spring, Hollsopple, Pa.
Good, Nancy D., July 30, Maple Spring, Hollsopple, Pa.
Herring, David L., July 23, Uniontown, Pa.
Kuruzovich, Beth Anne, March 26, Lower Claar, Claysburg, Pa.
O'Neill, Lawrence, Dec. 5, Green Tree, Oaks, Pa.
Ritenour, Eric R., Aug. 13, Geiger, Friedens, Pa.
Yinkey, Christopher R., Aug. 13, Geiger, Friedens, Pa.
Zepp, Christopher W., Aug. 27, Lancaster, Pa.

Ordinations

Barber, Howard, Jr., June 25, Prince of Peace, Kettering, Ohio
Fix, Eleanor A., July 2, Cherry Lane, Clearville, Pa.
Ilyes, John Samuel, June 11, New Fairview, York, Pa.
Jones, Gregory Lee, July 23, Shippensburg, Pa.
King, Kevin Daniel, June 25, Community, Orlando, Fla.
Ramsey, Dwight, Jan. 24, 1999, Midway, Lebanon, Pa.
Ray, Mark Alan, June 4, Blue River, Columbia City, Ind.
Weaver, Herbert, July 2, Jacksonville, Fla.
Williams, Edward Thomas, July 1, Midland, Va.

Pastoral placement

Booz, Donald R., from pastor, McPherson, Kan. to district executive/minister, Mid-Atlantic District, Ellicott City, Md., June 15
Carroll, James U., to East Nimishillen, North Canton, Ohio, part-time, June 4
Daggett, Kevin, from interim, Wakeman's Grove, Edinburg, Va. to permanent, Sangerville, Bridgewater, Va., June 1
Fairchild, Janice, to pastor, Springfield, Ore., August 1
Hess, John F., from pastor, Roxbury, Johnstown, Pa., to pastor, Newville, Pa., Aug. 27
Johnson, Daniel M., from pastor, Schuylkill, Pine Grove, Pa., to pastor, Brownsville, Md., August 20
Jones, Gregory Lee, to pastor, Fairview, Unionville, Iowa, Aug. 16
Keeney, Gregory R., from associate pastor, East Fairview, Manheim, Pa., to BVS Food Bank coordinator, Lewiston, Maine, Aug. 26
Layman, John P., from pastor, Fairview, Cordova, Md., to Director of Pastoral Care and Healthcare Chaplain, The Brethren Home Community, New Oxford, Pa., July 1
Peacock, Martin L., from youth minister to senior pastor, Eaton, Ohio, Aug. 27
Remillet, Charles, to Buffalo, Ind., part-time, March 19
Sanders, Cynthia S., from Cabool, Mo., to Broadwater, Essex, Mo. and Farrenburg, New Madrid, Mo. (yoked parish), June 2
Zepp, Christopher W., to youth pastor, Lancaster, Pa., part-time, Aug. 1

Beware the politics of God-talk

There has been so much God-talk in the current presidential campaign that church members don't know whether to rejoice or run for cover. "Our nation is chosen by God and commissioned by history to be a model to the world of justice and inclusion and diversity," said George W. Bush. Al Gore said he's a born-again Christian and Bush said Jesus is his favorite philosopher. Joseph Lieberman, the Democratic candidate for vice president, incorporated God into his standard stump speech. "As a people, we need to reaffirm our faith and renew the dedication of our nation and ourselves to God and God's purposes," Lieberman said again and again.

Pollsters explain that they have detected uneasiness among voters about morality in the White House, and politicians have decided that invoking religious language is an easy way to reassure them on this point. It usually works, as long as politicians keep their talk mild and don't claim the Lord endorses particular legislation or tells them to vote a certain way. *The Christian Century* says Joseph Lieberman's "God-talk" is harmless, that it is "not likely to conjure up fears of coercion or domination," and they praise him for observing the sabbath. Others thank Lieberman for rescuing God from the religious right, demonstrating that liberals too know how to pray.

Christians should avoid cynicism about politics and realize that many who work in the political arena are motivated by faith in God, whether they say so or not.

But there is much that should worry Christians about what one commentator called "parading piety" to win votes. "When religion and politics are too closely aligned, it's more often the religion than the politics that is compromised," writes columnist Cal Thomas. Stephen Carter, a law professor at Yale who has written a book on religion in politics, says when candidates make a public show of their religion it violates the Third Commandment, to not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord. And Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, explains why the political use of religion should be discouraged: "When religion is used repeatedly in the context of a presidential campaign, faith then becomes a political tool. Manipulation of religion in this fashion not only does damage to the political process, it cheapens and exploits religion for partisan ends." Recall that Jesus had plenty to say against politicians of his day making a display of their religion while ignoring the sick and the poor.

Early Brethren steered clear of politics altogether. "Throughout the first two centuries of Brethren existence, the church frowned on members participating in civil elections," says *The Brethren Encyclopedia*. The reasoning was tied to fears that participation in public affairs like elections would compromise the church's position of "nonresistance" and refusal to participate in the military. Many Brethren of today stay aloof from politics also, but the reason is more likely to be cynicism. Too many church people, rightly concerned about morality, join the familiar chorus, "You can't trust any of them. They're out to line their own pockets. They're all alike."

As a reporter, I have been up close to enough politicians to know they're not all alike. Some of them are honest to the core and are motivated by a sincere desire to serve the public good. They have chosen a difficult life because it offers them the potential to do so much good. As Andrew Oliver said in Boston in the mid-1700s, "Politics is the most hazardous of all professions. There is not another in which a man can hope to do so much good to his fellow creatures; neither is there any in which by a mere loss of nerve he may do such widespread harm; nor is there another in which he may so easily lose his own soul; nor is there another in which a positive and strict veracity is so difficult. But danger is the inseparable companion of honor. With all the temptations and degradations that beset it, politics is still the noblest career any man can choose." Today, I might add, women can choose that career too, and, for both women and men, it is a good way to improve the lives of many people.

Christians should avoid cynicism about politics and realize that many who work in the political arena are motivated by faith in God, whether they say so or not. Many Brethren will identify with the comment by Paul Simon, the former US senator from Illinois: "My overall impression is, the deeply religious people don't talk about it as much." Others are motivated by a deep sense of public morality, which may not find expression in religious terms. When deciding for whom to vote it doesn't hurt to know which candidates take religion seriously. But in the end it matters less what candidates say about their faith than what they do about it.

Our task as Christians is not to be religious, after all, but to follow Jesus. In that work we will do well to join hands with others who promote peace and strive to improve the lives of the poor, who battle corruption, and seek to heal divisions of race and class. These are God's true faithful.
—Fletcher Farrar

The First One Was Great.

The Second One Was Better!

Don't Miss the Third . . .

Caring Ministries Assembly

The Many Faces of Healing

August 7-11, 2001
University of La Verne, La Verne, Calif.

This five-day conference will provide training for caregiving professionals and lay people through keynote presentations made by nationally recognized speakers; daily Bible study; dozens of workshops — some offering continuing education credits/academic credits; praise and worship opportunities; and networking sessions.

To receive registration information or a Fact Sheet of Estimated Costs, visit ABC's website at www.brethren.org/abc/ or call (800) 323-8039.

Sponsored by the Association of Brethren Caregivers

Here's What Attendees Said in Their Evaluations of the Last Caring Ministries Assembly:

This conference exceeded my expectations. I was elated and inspired by so many excellent speakers and worships. This is one of the best conferences I have attended — more than my money's worth.

I can't imagine improving this conference. The speakers were excellent, the worship superb and the late evening sessions were varied and worthwhile. Keep up the good work. God bless you all.

The planners of Caring Ministries did a marvelous job! I feel so blessed to have had such an opportunity to learn. My faith was stretched and strengthened. Many thanks!!

Somehow the word needs to get out about how wonderful the Caring Ministries Conference is!

ABC's ministries are made possible through individual and congregational contributions.

"WITHOUT THE HELP OF YOUR CHURCH, OUR DREAMS COULD NOT HAVE COME TRUE."

—the women of El Estribo, Honduras

A women's group yearning for a better life. A partner agency equipping and encouraging them. A Global Food Crisis grant providing chickens and pigs. The good Lord creating the water and soil and life itself. It's the stuff dreams are made of.

And now we've been asked by our partner, the Christian Commission for Development, to assist in providing animals for over 800 women in dozens of other communities.

Other agencies had turned them down. The Global Food Crisis Fund said yes. $42,676 worth of yes. The funds are to be sent over the coming months.

Now you—yourself, your class, your Vacation Bible School, your congregation—can say yes, too. Support this and other life-giving, dream-fulfilling ministries of the Church of the Brethren through the Global Food Crisis Fund.

Give 'til it helps.

Global Food Crisis Fund

Church of the Brethren General Board
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, Illinois 60120
1-800-323-8039, ext. 228

urch
the
ren

MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 2000 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG

Time, by Young June Lew

You are the Light of the World

VEN SYMPTOMS OF WELLNESS • JOHN KLINE RIDERS • NOAC 2000

Share the Experiences of a Lifetime!

The Brethren Homes of the Atlantic Northeast District invite you to explore the care and refreshing lifestyles at your doorstep...

"Life as good as it can get! — in a relaxed, care-free, attractive environment, among congenial contemporaries, supported by Christian love and service. Praise God!"

- FRANK & DOROTHY HORST

"We enjoy living at Brethren Village because it provides choices for us to live in an upbeat, well-managed, caring, Christ-centered community of persons from diverse backgrounds."

- CURTIS & ANNA MARY DUBBLE

"Living at Peter Becker Community offers us the opportunity to meet new Christian friends with similar interests. We have peace of mind knowing all our needs will be met."

- WILMER & RUTH HARTLEY

Lebanon Valley Brethren Home
1200 Grubb Street
Palmyra, PA 17078
(717) 838-5406

Brethren Village
RETIREMENT COMMUNITY
3001 Lititz Pike
PO Box 5093
Lancaster, PA 17606
(717) 569-2657

Peter Becker Community
800 Maple Avenue
Harleysville, PA 19438
(215) 256-9501

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOVEMBER 2000 VOL.149 NO.10 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG

MESSENGER

Fletcher Farrar Publisher: Wendy McFadden News: Walt Wiltschek Advertising: Russ Matteson Subscriptions: Peggy Reinacher Design: Cedar House Desig

ONTHECOVER

It takes but little stretch of the imagination to see the cover painting as a symbol of the community of Christ. Candlelighting, no less, in honor of the One who said to his followers, "You are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:14).

Artist Young June Lew, a Korean Christian residing in San Francisco, titles her mixed media painting "Time." The title serves to remind us who bear the Christlight today that we are not alone; we stand with a vast company of believers, including the faithful who have gone before.

To look at what it means to be light in the proverbial sea of darkness and to nurture the bearers of light, MESSENGER provides a cluster of articles on spiritual formation. The stories and testimonies provide grist to congregations for lifting up the theme of light for Advent and for inviting support for the Christmas Offering for General Board Ministries.

Rich and wondrous as light is as a symbol, we who are committed to following Jesus do well to remember our own little light is not the source of light, but only a reflection of the Light. And given that our light is forever diminishing, forever in need of tending, how crucial it is that we turn again and again to the Source from whom all light springs.—Howard Royer

Glenn Mitchell

16

DEPARTMENTS

2 **From the Publisher**
3 **In Touch**
6 **News**
33 **Letters**
35 **Turning Points**
36 **Editorial**

10 **John Kline rides again**

Each year the Elder John Kline Memorial Riders retrace some of the hoofmarks of the famous 19th-century minister who logged 100,000 miles on horseback visiting Brethren. This year's travel through time was in western Pennsylvania.

You are the Light of the World

14 **The inward journey**

The first of this month's cluster of articles on spiritual formation describes the programs, publications, and events that have grown out of the General Board's emphasis on the spiritual life. An accompanying article recommends books for spiritual growth.

16 **Seven symptoms of wellness**

Presented as a color insert, this artistic meditation uses text by Paul Grout and photography by Glenn Mitchell to evoke the joy of life with God. Design is by Cedar House.

18 **Spirituality for the young**

Preparing youth for a private devotional life leads adults to model prayer, meditation on scripture, and quiet reflection.

20 **Finding God in the everyday**

Our prayers often happen in the midst of daily routine. Four Brethren share glimpses of how they seek and know God's blessing.

Walt Witschel

24

24 **National Older Adult Conference**

There were 1,050 Brethren over 50 at Lake Junaluska, N.C., in September for the fifth National Older Adult Conference, sponsored by the Association of Brethren Caregivers. "We're branches on a vine," Marva Dawn told participants. "If you don't stay stuck, you don't bear much fruit."

FROM THE PUBLISHER

In many quarters it's now more popular to talk about spirituality than about religion. For these people, religion carries all the connotations of shoulds and oughts, of rules and rigidity, of institutions marred by hypocrisy and other human imperfections. Spirituality, on the other hand, is more like those websites that customize themselves to you once you've registered. It's a make-your-own-Sunday bar, where you pick and choose whatever elements are cool for you. At least that appears to be the case for a growing number of people in the US.

"Spirituality is religion with all the things you don't like about religion taken out," was Martin Marty's wry observation at a conference I attended last spring.

Because "spirituality" is so vague (as evidenced by the eclectic, even wacky, set of titles in this section of your local bookstore), the term doesn't appeal to everybody. Some assume it's just a synonym for New Age. (Actually, the rise of "spirituality lite" in the 1980s and 1990s has given way to books with considerably more depth and breadth, notes *Publishers Weekly.*)

But spirituality belonged to the church before it belonged to the booksellers, and we would do well to explore what the interest in spirituality means. Pollster George Gallup has researched this individualistic spiritual questing, and says, "Americans are seeking something more meaningful, deeper, and healthier. I think it stems in part from what they perceive to be a failure of materialism in (the 20th) century and the fact that there are so many problems that surround us without apparent solutions.... The surge in this desire for spiritual growth is perhaps one of the most dramatic movements of the 20th century."

Among Gallup's findings, reported in *Surveying the Religious Landscape* (Morehouse Publishing): 1) More than 80 percent of Americans desire to grow spiritually. 2) There is a glaring lack of knowledge about the Bible, basic doctrines, and the traditions of one's own religion. 3) Too often the faith professed is superficial, with people not knowing what they believe or why.

Sociologist Wade Clark Roof has also studied religion in America. His book *Spiritual Marketplace: Baby Boomers and the Remaking of American Religion* (Princeton) concludes that "while religion may be losing some of its influence in public life, spirituality is becoming a more important component of people's personal lives."

When Oprah Winfrey debuted her new magazine *O*, one media critic who noted that the magazine makes spirituality its centerpiece concluded: "*O* will likely end up being more for people who like the idea of spirituality and change, who want to be associated with these things, without necessarily treating it as scripture."

It's hard to compete with the glitzy spirituality so prevalent in our culture, but perhaps the best response is to strengthen our own spirituality, forming it daily through closer communion with God and a faith that is lived out by modeling our lives after Jesus. The spiritual questing around us is a search for something authentic. I trust that our congregations can speak the simple language of authenticity better than any magazine (even this one).

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

MESSENGER
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:
preinacher_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 847-742-5100
Fax: 847-742-6103

Display advertising:
rmatteson_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039
Fax: 847-742-1407

Editorial:
ffarrar_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 217-525-9083
Fax: 217-525-9269

Subscription rates:
$16.50 individual rate
$13.50 church group plan
$13.50 gift subscriptions

If you move, clip address label
and send with new address to
MESSENGER Subscriptions, at
the above address. Allow at lea
five weeks for address change.

Connect electronically:
For a free subscription to
Newsline, the Church
of the Brethren e-mail news
report, write cobnews@aol.com

To view the official Church of
the Brethren website, go to
http://www. brethren.org.

MESSENGER is the official publication of the Chur
of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage mat
Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 1
1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of t
Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religi
News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Bibli
quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are fr
the New Revised Standard Version. MESSENGER
published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Chur
of the Brethren General Board. Periodical posta
paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing offi
November 2000. Copyright 2000, Church of t
Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0355.
Postmaster: Send address changes to MESSENGE
1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

♻ Printed on recycled paper

IN TOUCH

Ray Glick

Bookmark benefactors: *Ansley Crull, left, and Kelly Remnant.*

How **bookmarks** help people in need

Summer is a wonderful time for the entrepreneurial spirit of children to kick in. Many children opt to set up lemonade stands, but Kelly Remnant and Ansley Crull were looking for something different. They chose to make bookmarks instead. While designing, cutting, coloring, and decorating their bookmarks, they discussed what to do with their proceeds and decided to donate the money to people in need. They made a sign and set up a table along East College Street, just down the street from Bridgewater College, and began to sell. People stopped to purchase the bookmarks at a price of 25 cents each. When they were done, the girls had collected a total of $16.

Ansley, who attends the Spring Creek Church of the Nazarene in Bridgewater, donated her share to church missions. Kelly, of the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren, decided to put her share of the money into the 2-Cent Club Offering, collected every second Sunday of the month. At 2 cents a meal, her contribution of $8 is equivalent to 400 meals!—**Robert Alley**

Dirty cars meet God's love

"Who's taking the donations?"

"No one. We're not accepting donations."

"What! You've got to accept donations."

"We just want to show that God loves you, and that God's love is free."

This was the conversaton repeated in some form many times on Sept. 2 as members of the Living Stone Church of the Brethren, Cumberland, Md., washed cars—for FREE.

Seventeen adults and children washed 45-plus cars in three hours between 9 a.m. and noon—that's one car every four minutes.

Many drivers had a hard time believing that the group actually didn't want anything for their services, not even a donation. As cars were being wiped dry, some drivers got out and wanted to talk. Some asked about the church, and each driver was given a small card with the church's name, address, and phone number.

Everyone was sent off with "Have a good day" and a big smile, and they left with a smile of their own.

—Lester Boleyn

Kelsey Yost brings home the gold

Twelve-year-old Kelsey Yost, a member of the Ridgeway Community Church of the Brethren, Harrisburg, Pa., returned home from California as a national record-breaking athlete. She won five gold medals in swimming and archery events at the Junior National Wheelchair Championships, held in San Jose. The event drew 200 young athletes from 32 states and several countries.

Kelsey is affected by spina bifida, one of the most common disabling birth defects. Kelsey, whose photograph was on the October 1995 cover of Messenger, was the subject of a recent feature article in the Harrisburg *Patriot-News*. Her father, Don Yost, told the newspaper his daughter's determination is an inspiration. He said, "If you are born without something, it seems like God gives you something else to make up for it."

Ralph Detrick

Elizabethtown co-pastor Joyce Stoltzfus *learns to know one of the young patients of Dr. Hilcias Ricardo.*

Elizabethtown takes get-acquainted trip to Dominican Republic

Fourteen members of the Elizabethtown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren have returned from a 10-day intergenerational workcamp in the Dominican Republic. They went to work, but also to get to know the members of the emerging Church of the Brethren there.

The congregation's special ties to the people of the DR began a year ago when the congregation took on the financial support of a Dominican physician, Dr. Hilcias Ricardo, who offered to work among the poorest of the poor in her land—illegal Haitian refugees who came as sugar cane workers. (See "A medical doctor with a mission," April.)

To prepare for the workcamp, participants studied Spanish one day a week for several months, taught by Sheila Rodriguez, a member of the church and a Spanish teacher at Elizabethtown College.

Dr. Ricardo took the group by burro and horseback to one of the distant Haitian villages where she has a weekly clinic.

Ralph Detrick, co-pastor of the Elizabethtown church, preached in Spanish on Sunday in Dr. Ricardo's home church, Peniel, in Santo Domingo.—**Wayne Zunkel**

Champaign marks centennial

The Champaign (Ill.) Church of the Brethren will celebrate its 100th anniversary Nov. 19. A century ago several Church of the Brethren families began to meet informally in homes for fellowship and Bible study. Later, space was rented in adjoining Urbana, and then there were tent meetings as the interest and ministries grew. The Brethren bought property on Market Street in Champaign, the fastest growing area of the city. The present building was constructed in 1950.

The anniversary celebration theme is "Keeping on in the Spirit of the Lord." The church is served by a pastoral team of James and Mary Houff, Paul Kohler, and Rex Richardson.

Remembered

Russ Flora, chair of the board of Brethren Retirement Community, Greenville, Ohio, died unexpectedly Sept. 4. He was a member of West Charleston Church of the Brethren, Tipp City, Ohio.

Russ was significantly involved in the creation of the Resident Aid Fund to assist residents of The Brethren's Home during its financial reorganization from 1976 to 1982. He also served 11 years on its board of trustees, the last seven years as chair.

Owen Shankster, of Roann, Ind., died Sept. 5. Known as a builder and manager of the wells program in Nigeria, Owen had retired from General Board mission service in 1991 after serving 41 years.

Dorothy G. Murray, 84, died Aug. 24 at her home in Roanoke, Va. Her book *This is Stevie's Story* was for many years the guide given by the National Association for Retarded Citizens to parents of retarded children. She also wrote *Sister Anna*, a biography of Anna Mow, published by Brethren Press. A member of the Cloverdale (Va.) Church of the Brethren, she served on the General Board and on Standing Committee.

Elmer Frantz, a member of the Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren, *Littleton, Colo., pictured here with his granddaughter, Caitlin Frantz, receiving an Outstanding Volunteer Award from Jan West Schrock, director of church-community relations for Heifer Project International.*

'Hymns for Heifers' gathers a unique men's chorus to benefit Heifer Project

A men's chorus sang "Hymns for Heifers" at a benefit concert for Heifer Project International in Greeley, Colo., Aug. 27. An enthusiastic audience responded with generous applause and the choir's rendition of "Angels Rolled the Stone Away" earned a standing ovation.

What has been dubbed the Rocky Mountain Men's Chorus—made up of men from across Colorado and neighboring states—is already considering another benefit concert next year.

Organizers Elmer and Dan Frantz—Elmer a long-term volunteer for HPI and his son Dan, also a music director in Greeley—were encouraged by the response and want to widen the welcome of the chorus next year. A variety of faith backgrounds were represented, including Church of the Brethren congregations in Littleton and Windsor, Colo., as well as Lutherans, Mennonites, United Church of Christ, and Latter-Day Saints.

During the concert, HPI recognized Elmer Frantz for years of volunteer work spreading the word about Heifer Project. Jan Schrock, daughter of HPI founder Dan West and a former director of Brethren Volunteer Service, was present to give the award.

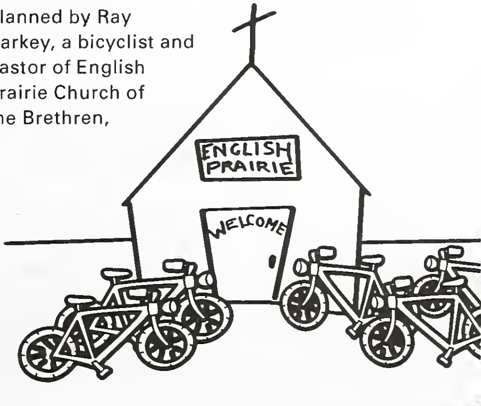
—Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

The Ridin' Rev' preaches to bicyclists

More than 1,100 bicyclists took part in the Amish Land and Lakes Michiana bicycle tour in September, and 60 of them attended the first Sunday morning worship service offered in the annual event.

The service was planned by Ray Barkey, a bicyclist and pastor of English Prairie Church of the Brethren, Brighton, Ind. Nicknamed "The Ridin' Rev,'" Barkey challenged the youth to be "Dan Henrys," markers along the road, for others. He based his message on Hebrews 12, in which Paul admonishes the Christians to run the race set before them.

—Wanda Yoder



Walt Wiltschek

Jerry Naff of Boones Mill, Va., and Earl Traughber, Idaho district executive, *discuss visions for church planting during a mid-September seminar on the topic in Ashland, Ohio. The seminar was sponsored by the General Board's Congregational Life Ministries office and New Church Development Advisory Committee.*

Seminar teaches tools for church planting

Nearly five dozen Church of the Brethren pastors, district executives, and others interested in new church development gathered Sept. 17-21 at Ashland (Ohio) Theological Seminary for an intense training program in church planting.

The event was sponsored by the General Board's Congregational Life Ministries Office and New Church Development Advisory Committee. They offered full scholarships to two members of each district (most of which were represented), and several districts sent additional people at their own expense.

Members of the Ashland faculty who specialize in church planting and leadership issues led the event, which packed a large amount of material into four full days. A look at the various dimensions of one's spiritual journey, postmodernism, and ministry philosophy was followed by 13 principles of church planting.

"I think we've had some excellent presentations here," said Marianne Pittman of Blacksburg, Va., a member of the advisory committee. "They've done an excellent job, I think, of covering a variety of very important issues in a short time."

Several people said they thought the event was a good use of the General Board's resources and wished there would be more such opportunities and emphasis; some said they wished such training could be offered within a Church of the Brethren theology. Pittman said the committee will be exploring the possibilities for ongoing training.

Volunteer teachers to begin work at Brethren Mission House

Five members of Brethren Volunteer Service unit 240 are forming the first group of volunteers at the Brethren Mission House in Azua, Dominican Republic.

The new project is a joint effort of the General Board's Global Mission Partnerships Office, BVS, the Dominican Brethren, and Brethren Revival Fellowship, with a main focus of teaching English as a second language. Earl and Barbara Eby arrived there from Pennsylvania earlier this summer to serve a three-year term as "house parents," reporting to mission coordinators Jerry and Becky Crouse.

Sally Jo Caracheo of Elgin, Ill., who has worked in the Dominican Republic previously, will serve as teacher trainer/coordinator. Daniel Greenawalt of Harrisonburg, Va.; Denise Negley of Greencastle, Pa.; Kenda Negley of Mercersburg, Pa.; and Jewel Sheeler of Newville, Va., will be English teachers.

Brethren Witness office announces 2001 trips

The General Board's Brethren Witness office has announced dates for Faith Expeditions to Central America and the Caribbean for the coming year. The trips invite Brethren to grow in their faith while learning about peace, justice, and environmental realities around the world. Trips are as follows:

- **Jan. 8-18**: Up to 15 Brethren will travel to Belize and Guatemala for an environment-oriented trip. Leadership will be provided by former Brethren Volunteer Service workers Samantha Morris and Robert Stiles.
- **May 7-17**: Jerry and Becky Crouse of the General Board's Global Mission Partnerships staff will host a learning tour to the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Focus will be on social justice issues facing Christians and others in these Caribbean nations.
- **June 13-22**: A Guatemala delegation will be led by Tom Benevento of the Global Mission Partnerships office. This experience will have an environmental education focus, but will also deal with social justice concerns and visit Brethren-supported development projects.
- **June 18-27**: Brethren will return to the southern coast of Honduras for the third year in a row to live and work in a poor rural community. Participants will visit villages where Global Food Crisis Fund grants have supported small livestock projects for women's groups. Brethren Witness director David Radcliff will lead the trip.

Requirements for all Faith Expeditions include a willingness to grow in faith, a respect for other cultures, openness for adventure, and willingness to endure very basic living conditions. Approximate cost is $200-$400 plus airfare. Special scholarships are available for youth and young adults. Contact the Brethren Witness office for more details, 800-323-8039, ext. 228.

Becky Ball-Crouse

More than 150 Dominican Brethren *gathered on Sept. 16 for the dedication of the new San Jose Christ, the True One church, built with the help of the Indian Creek Church of the Brethren (Harleysville, Pa.). It is part of a growing ministry in the Caribbean nation through the General Board's Global Mission Partnerships.*

NCC delegation makes visit to Cuba

The Cuban and US national ecumenical councils met in Cuba Sept. 2-7 to consider "what's next?" in their relationship that has held fast for more than 40 years.

Invited and hosted by the Cuban Council of Churches, an eight-member National Council of Churches delegation packed 12- to 15-hour days with visits to four overflowing Havana churches and the dynamic, ecumenical Matanzas Theological Seminary. They also toured a polyclinic, a center for children and adults with Downs Syndrome, and the Latin American School of Medicine.

They held a cordial, first-ever NCC delegation meeting with Roman Catholic Cardinal Jaime Ortega, had two working sessions with Cuban church leaders, met with representatives of both the Cuban and US governments, and delivered 1,500 Church World Service "Gifts of the Heart" School Kits for primary school pupils.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Oct. 26-Nov. 3 **Brethren Witness** Faith Expedition to Honduras, women's delegation

Nov. 3-4 **Shenandoah District Conference,** Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren

Nov. 3-5 **Illinois and Wisconsin District Conference,** Virden (Ill.) Church of the Brethren

Nov. 5 **National Junior High Sunday**

Nov. 10-11 **Virlina District Conference,** Franklin Heights Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, Va.

Nov. 12-15 **Outdoor Ministries Association National Conference,** Camp Mack, Milford, Ind.

Nov. 17-18 **Brethren Benefit Trust board meetings**

Nov. 18 **National Youth Ministry Workshop,** Chambersburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren

Nov. 29-Dec. 1 **Ecumenical event on "Stewardship: A Celebration of Grace,"** Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Call 800-835-5671

Dec. 10 **Christmas offering emphasis**

Red Cross office plans move to New Windsor

A new tenant is expected soon at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md.

The Carroll County (Md.) District of the American Red Cross announced in late September that it would be opening a full-service office there in November, pending final agreement on the terms of the lease. The space will be used for health and safety classes, board and disaster team meetings, for volunteers to meet and work, and for general administration.

"Emergency Response/Service Ministries has had a working relationship with the national office of the American Red Cross for many years in disaster response and disaster child care," said Stan Noffsinger, director of the Brethren Service Center. "The Carroll County Red Cross office is a wonderful and welcomed addition to our community."

The Red Cross will be utilizing space in the lower level of Windsor Hall, formerly occupied by On Earth Peace Assembly and its bookstore, The Peace Place. OEPA closed the bookstore as of Sept. 30, and the agency's offices will move into the campus' Blue Ridge Building as of Nov. 1.

The Red Cross office is moving from an existing office in nearby Westminster. Its blood donation program will continue to operate there.

BRETHRENSPEAK

Know that the Sudanese churches hold the Church of the Brethren in high regard and are extremely thankful for our long and warm relationship.

***Mark Sloan,** working with the New Sudan Council of Churches through the General Board.*

YOUTHBEAT

The General Board's Youth/Young Adult Office has announced several new resources and events for the coming year:

- The junior high ministry theme for 2000-01 is "Find your place in this world," based on Ephesians 1:11 in *The Message*. A packet of materials on the theme is available to use on Junior High Sunday, Nov. 5, as well as a poster to display the theme.

- The senior high ministry theme for 2001 is "Be an example," based on I Timothy 4:12. Resource materials will be sent out early in 2001.

- An application form is available for the 2001 Youth Peace Travel Team, which will be composed of four youth/young adults age 16-22. Applications are due Jan. 1.

- Flyers are out for the 2001 National Youth Christian Citizenship Seminar, March 31-April 5 in New York and Washington, D.C., with the theme "No Fear: Overcoming Violence in Our Communities, Our Nation, and Our World"; and for the 2001 Young Adult Conference, May 26-28 at Brethren Woods in Keezletown, Va., led by Paul Grout.

- Additional programs are also being planned as part of the "God-Centered Life" youth spirituality project. A retreat for youth advisors will be held March 9-11 at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministries Center in Sharpsburg, Md., and a week-long spirituality camp for youth will be July 29-Aug. 4 at Camp Mack in Milford, Ind.

- A new membership curriculum called *Heart, Soul, and Mind: Becoming a Member of the Church of the Brethren*, usable by any age group but particularly geared toward youth in grades 6-12, is also now available through Brethren Press.

McCullough becomes new director of CWS

The Rev. John L. McCullough of Montclair, N.J., was named the new executive director for Church World Service Inc., following a unanimous vote by the CWS board of directors Sept. 13.

McCullough had served since June 1 as interim director and previously was associate general secretary of the United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries. He succeeds the Rev. Dr. Rodney I. Page, who retired May 31.

Personnel changes

Allen Hansell, director of ministry for the Church of the Brethren General Board, has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31.

He will continue serving in the position through Dec. 31, 2001, however, donating most of his salary to special General Board projects for ministerial leadership. Hansell said he wanted to encourage other retirees to stay active in the church and to find ways to continue to serve.

Hansell began as director of ministry in October 1997 after three decades as a pastor and district executive minister. He will continue to maintain an office in Elizabethtown, Pa.

WORLDWATCH

1. **Guatemala.** The General Board's Global Food Crisis Fund sent $15,000 to the Central American nation in September, earmarked to help families build wood-conserving stoves and water-storing cisterns in the Huehuetenango region. It's the third grant for the project in two years.

2. **Nigeria.** President Bill Clinton visited in late summer to encourage the country's new democratic government. John Tubbs, who serves as Global Mission Partnerships' mission co-coordinator in Nigeria, said, "Everybody in Nigeria, except for a few critics perhaps, is very happy with Clinton's visit. They are saying that he has made the world aware of Nigeria."

3. **Eritrea.** The horn of Africa received an allocation of $5,000 from the General Board's Emergency Disaster Fund, designated to help the Eritrean Development Association ship medicines and medical supplies to Eritrea. Many people have been displaced by an ongoing war with Ethiopia.

4. **Angelus Oaks, Calif.** Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 241 held orientation at Camp La Verne Sept. 17-Oct. 7. Twenty people participated in the unit, preparing to head out to a variety of projects.

5. **Belize.** The Brethren Witness office of the General Board sent $4,000 to the Eden Conservancy, an initiative to purchase and preserve threatened rainforest in the Central American nation. The funds were raised through the "If a Tree Falls" campaign and should purchase more than 30 acres.

6. **Sudan.** A recent report from the US Committee for Refugees indicates that more than 10 percent of the world's estimated 35 million uprooted people are in the African nation, engaged in a lengthy civil war.

7. **Bridgewater, Va.** Bridgewater College dedicated its new Carter Center for Worship and Music on Sept. 24, housed in the former Bridgewater Church of the Brethren building after renovations. The building will house the music department and church relations and chaplain's offices.

8. **Dominican Republic.** A new allocation of $13,785 from the General Board's Global Food Crisis Fund will aid COTEDO, a Church of the Brethren partner agency, in a project to obtain birth certificates for children born of Haitian parentage in the Dominican—necessary to receive public education and health care.

9. **Franklin, Va.** A special ceremony in mid-September honored the many volunteers who helped with Hurricane Floyd cleanup in the area during the past year. A new statue was unveiled on a corner that had been under 22 feet of water a year earlier. Church of the Brethren disaster relief had an ongoing project in the Franklin area.

ワールドフレンドシップセンター
WORLD FRIENDSHIP CENTER
☎503-3191

Brethren Volunteer Service orientation coordinator Sue Grubb and orientation assistant Tracy Stoddart traveled to Hiroshima, Japan, *in August to meet with Allan and Vercey Smyth, BVS workers who are serving as co-directors of the World Friendship Center there. Grubb and Stoddart also attended ceremonies for remembering the 55th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb.*

A DAY WITH THE
John Kline riders

Paying homage to a horseback preacher, this year's ride visits two churches that hosted seven Annual Meetings

by Emmert F. Bittinger

Each spring, the Elder John Kline Memorial Riders take a few days to retrace one of the famous minister's historic trips. Between 1835 and 1864 he covered 100,000 miles on horseback visiting scattered Brethren families in several eastern states. He made 66 trips to West Virginia and 19 visits to Pennsylvania, keeping a daily record of miles traveled, families visited, and services held.

This year, our ride began on June 9, 2000. We visited the Maple Grove, Salisbury, Beachdale, and Brothersvalley churches, as well as the building that housed the former Summit Mills congregation, all in Pennsylvania. Services honoring Kline were held by the riders each evening and on Sunday morning.

This ride went through historic Brethren lands located in the southeastern part of Somerset County, Pa. The Pennsylvania towns of Salisbury, Meyersdale, and Berlin are at the heart of two early Brethren settlements, one on the Casselman River and the other on the Glades. Both date into the 1700s.

The ride would take us through the river settlement in the Salisbury and Summit Mills sections. The Brethren arrived here by 1783 and John Keagy was elected minister. This pioneer congregation was called Elk Lick. Bound by a strong tradition of worship in Brethren homes, they did not build their first meetinghouse until 1846 at Summit Mills, three miles west of Meyersdale. This was the mother church of Elk Lick. It was a marvel of wood construction and could serve 680 communicants. An Amish businessman now uses it as a pallet factory.

The fame and importance of these two congregations is revealed in the fact that they hosted a total of seven Annual Meetings during the 19th Century—1811, 1821, 1841, 1849, 1859, 1873, and 1894.

Elder John Kline attended the conference in 1849 at the Grove church near Berlin and one in 1859 at Summit Mills. In 1869, Elder Holsinger presided over a love feast in Summit Mills with 3,000 people present.

After a hearty breakfast on June 10 provided by the friendly people at the Salisbury church, our 17 riders set out northward along the Casselman River to Boynton and then Summit Mills. To our left and west of Salisbury lay the lands of Brethren minister Peter Liven-

good (1730-1826) and his neighbor, minister John Hendrick. On the right lay the Lichty farm. The homes of these early ministers served as meeting places for the Brethren.

At the top of Tipton Hill on Pleasant View Road, we came to the farm of Elder John Keagy (1746-1806), Elk Lick's first elected minister. Later, the farm was in the possession of Bishop John Buechly/Beechly, an elder of Summit Mills. The Annual Meeting of 1811 was held on this farm, hosted by Elder Buechly. Elder John Kline visited this farm on several occasions, spending nights there during the conference of 1859 with David Buechly/Beeghly, then owner.

At the northern edge of Summit Mills, we came to the Grace Brethren church on the left. Looking northward from the parking lot, we could see the large old Summit Mills church. Just beyond were the farm buildings of minister William Miller, now owned by the Amish Breneman family. These buildings accommodated the Annual Meeting of 1841. The Annual Meeting of 1859 also used these farm buildings along with the meetinghouse. The sermon John Kline preached at this conference is preserved in his diary.

The next day was Sunday, and our riders provided a John Kline service at the Brothersvalley church. Before the service, the people waited on the church lawn for the arrival of two riders, Elder John Kline and traveling companion Elder Daniel Thomas, impersonated by Emmert Bittinger and Fred Garber.

Our riders have developed deep respect for Elder John Kline. After following several of his mountain routes, we agree that he and his faithful horse Nell seem totally impervious to fatigue, weather, and all trials. Exhausted after only 20 miles in 90-degree heat, we found it difficult to imagine his travels from Virginia into Maryland and Pennsylvania, covering 30 or 40 miles each day. At the end of each day he still had energy left to hold services in some mountain home where neighbors had gathered. He appears universally loved and admired.

In his final years, he served as moderator of Annual Meeting four times. His life was prematurely cut short by an assassin's bullet in 1864, one of the tragic consequences of the violent emotions stirred up by the Civil War.

Emmert Bittinger of Bridgewater, Va., retired from teaching at Bridgewater College, has authored many articles on church and family history.

The John Kline Riders *take a noon break in the forest.*

...in our midst

...ON PRAYER

Prayer time, prayer discipline, prayer life, prayer rug. Prayer space, prayers for the journey, praying the Bible, learning to pray. Prayers for worship, prayer at home, prayers for children, prayers for those who are dying. "Pray without ceasing," pray in solitude, pray aloud, pray in silence. Just pray! Always pray! Pray today!

This newest congregational resource from the General Board's ***...in our midst*** series, provides ample opportunity for congregations to explore the world of prayer. The resource provides; lectionary prayer resources for the season of Epiphany, prayers for congregational life, suggestions for individual prayer practices, prayers for and about children and youth, a lighter-hearted look at prayer, and a sample study session on prayer.

Other resources in the ***...in our midst*** series include:

- Spiritual Growth
- Mission Education
- Children & Violence
- Lent & Easter Resources
- Ministerial Leadership

To order additional copies of these resources, contact Brethren Press at 800-441-3712. Resources are $2.50 plus shipping and handling.

Fletcher Farr

You are the Light of the World

On the Inward

New efforts to foster spiritual formation

by Wendy McFadden

Ultimately, spiritual formation means being shaped by scripture and by spiritual practices, and trying to form our lives after the likeness of Christ.

It feels like a long time ago, but just last year everyone was caught up in the frenzy about Y2K. People were focused on survival, the threat of chaos, fear of technology run amok, and the end times.

In the shadow of the impending disaster, the Church of the Brethren General Board decided to reclaim the moment as the birthday of Jesus and to use the occasion to deepen our spiritual roots. It seemed more faithful to turn toward God as our never-failing source of strength than to become obsessed about the limitations of computers.

As the year 2000 draws to a close, it's clear that the Church of the Brethren has embraced this counter-cultural way of looking at the calendar: Under the banner of "J2K," a number of congregations and districts have adopted "New Hope, New Day" as their own theme. Many individuals are using the daily scriptures and prayer reminders, and congregations are taking special offerings. The year culminates with a conference on "Speaking of Jesus" (see sidebar p. 16).

But the observance doesn't end with the year 2000. Congregations have been encouraged to create time capsules that will be opened in 2033, after a span of time that represents the earthly life of Jesus.

The J2K emphasis is but one way the General Board is working at spiritual formation. In the Christmas Offering Emphasis, the board is encouraging congregations to lift up and support the work in this important but sometimes-overlooked area.

What is spiritual formation? It's going beyond the initial decision to follow Jesus. It's discipleship. It's growing in faith. It's about depth, not just breadth. It's about being as well as doing, and vice versa.

It has more to do with the inward journey than the outward, says Glenn Timmons, director of the General Board's Congregational Life Ministries unit. "Hopefully, the inward journey shapes the outward.

"We as Brethren know how to address the question of what or how," Timmons adds, "but we don't always know how to address the why. Spiritual formation will help people ground their lives in traditional spiritual practices."

For Timmons this search for more groundedness is as close to home as himself, for whom spiritual formation is a "personal corrective," and as far-flung as the world around us. "I think the last 50 years of uprootedness of the culture has increased the need for rooting and

Journey

rounding. When spirituality makes the cover f major secular magazines, something's going n in the culture—even if it's not a particularly 'hristian form of spirituality."

Ultimately, spiritual formation means being 1aped by scripture and by spiritual practices, and ying to form our lives after the likeness of Christ. Spiritual formation begins more with God than ith 'my need,'" says Timmons. "It involves listeng to God more than speaking to God."

Spiritual formation is one of the emphases f Congregational Life Ministries, and is borne ut in a number of ways. Congregational Life eam members who are working with congreations on a long-term basis are building into e revitalization process some form of spiritual evelopment "almost as a prerequisite," on the sis that revitalization is more than rearrang- g the church or doing a new program.

"Revitalization begins with transformation of people, assuming that the change is of God ther than some human effort," says Timmons.

Another quiet effort of Congregational Life inistries is development of a spiritual direcrs network, a group of about 35 people who we either completed or are involved in a certication program in spiritual direction. The oup has gathered at the past two Annual Conferences and also communicates via a listserv (a forum for communicating through electronic mail). The networking provides useful interaction among people with a common calling, highlights for the denomination "what is often a rather invisible group," and provides a sounding board for staff.

A higher-profile endeavor is Worshipful-Work, a CLM effort inspired by Chuck Olsen's book *Transforming Church Boards into Spiritual Leaders*. Worshipful-Work uses the four components of storytelling, biblical reflection and study, prayerful discernment, and "visioning the future" to bring more discernment into decisionmaking.

CLM has trained about 65 people across the denomination who are on call to help congregations begin to incorporate these elements into their decisionmaking processes. CLM not only funded the training, but has made available additional funds to cover mileage and other expenses of trainers.

This style of decisionmaking begins with different assumptions, says Timmons. "Do you begin with the question of what God would yearn for the church, or what we would like for the church? What is the mind of Christ?"

Use of this new resource has varied from district to district, but Timmons sees from congregational and district newsletters that a number of groups are adopting elements of Worshipful-Work. "Some of those are very creative," says Timmons. He adds that these spiritual practices "are best done when they don't call attention to themselves."

A host of printed materials from Brethren Press and other offices of the General Board also nurture spiritual formation. The first in the *In Our Midst* series of congregational resources was on spiritual growth; the sixth in the series, soon to be released, is on prayer. The Lenten bulletins in the 2001 Church of the Brethren bulletin series feature seven paintings from Paul Grout's "Stations of the Resurrection," providing a unique focus for meditation during the weeks leading up to Easter. A new book titled *The Love Feast*, a treasury of images and words just published in July, provides a way for Brethren to reflect on the way this profound

> "Spiritual formation begins more with God than with 'my need.' It involves listening to God more than speaking to God. Revitalization begins with transformation of a people, assuming that the change is of God rather than some human effort," says Glenn Timmons.

ordinance shapes our identity.

And a key resource for shaping the next generation of Brethren is *Heart, Soul, and, Mind* a comprehensive membership curriculum from Brethren Press. While the materials are designed to convey basic information about the Bible, church history, Brethren belief, and church membership, more importantly they guide learners through a careful and deliberate process that involves wrestling with questions about faith, being mentored, and serving in an apprenticeship program.

"The Brethren commitment to discipleship is, at its heart, a commitment to growth with God," says the leader's guide for *Heart, Soul, and Mind*. "Therefore, the outward disciplines of mutual aid, service, relief work, and the peace testimony serve to balance the inward disciplines of study, worship, and prayer. All the disciplines, inward and outward, are the outgrowth of a relationship with God and not the worthless effort to earn God's grace" (p. 110).

The board's leadership in spiritual formation is no accident, but rather was identified three years ago as one of its goals. The board has sought to establish its own balance between the inward and the outward, and invites congregations and individuals to seek that balance as well.

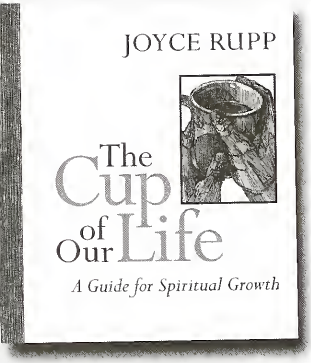
Underlining the General Board's varied contributions to spiritual formation within the Church of the Brethren is its own vision statement, "Of God, for God, with God."

Underlining the General Board's varied contributions to spiritual formation within the Church of the Brethren is its own vision statement, "Of God, for God, with God." The words emerged to a small planning group made up of board members and staff, who held a spiritual retreat marked by Bible study, prayer, and discernment.

Rich in their simplicity, the words serve as a touchstone for all the General Board's ministries—those that visibly serve the world around us and those that nurture our own souls so that we are ever more faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

Wendy McFadden is director and publisher of Brethren Press.

Recommended Reading for Spiritual Growth

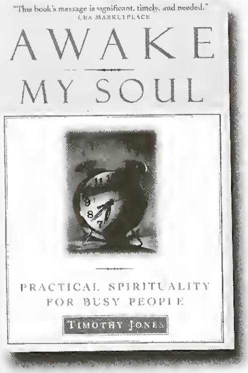


Below are listed five excellent books on spiritual growth that help us to nurture our relationship with God in practical, everyday ways. The books are available through Brethren Press by calling 800-441-3712.

The Cup of Our Life: A Guide for Spiritual Growth, by Joyce Rupp, Ave Maria Press, 1997. $12.95.

This book of devotions contains six weeks of daily meditations for spiritual growth. The author is a Catholic sister, a member of the Servite (Servants of Mary) community. She is a popular author and retreat leader who describes how the ordinary cups that we use each day can become symbols of our spiritual life. For each day she uses different images like the broken cup, the open cup, the chipped cup, the blessing cup. Each day's devotion includes a short essay, a scripture, suggestions for meditation/prayer, and questions for journaling.

Rupp reminds us that our spiritual life is not limited to the set time and place of our prayer. Rather, it involves all of our life. Therefore, the common, ordinary things of life, like cups, are good reminders to us that God is always present in our lives. Through our regular, daily times of prayer and scripture study we are re-alerted to discover God throughout our entire day.


"This book's message is significant, timely, and needed." CBA MARKETPLACE
AWAKE MY SOUL
PRACTICAL SPIRITUALITY FOR BUSY PEOPLE
TIMOTHY JONES

Awake My Soul: Practical Spirituality for Busy People, by Timothy Jones,Doubleday Books, 2000. $10.95.

This former Church of the Brethren minister, now Episcopalian, has written a number of excellent books on spirituality: *The Art of Prayer, A Place for God*, and now this latest offering. Jones does a masterful job of combining spiritual insights with anecdotes from his own daily life and the lives of others. He rightly understands that there is a deep spiritual hunger in America, and he seeks to draw from both ancient wisdom and contemporary experience. His book is filled with practical ways to "awake" our souls to God in the midst of our daily lives.

He writes, "Somehow waking up must bring calm and simple graces and occasional spaces. I have no interest in an approach to the spiritual life that only tightens my time bind. . . . What I need is fundamentally to change my relationship to time, to the God of time." So he suggests concrete ways of turning our thoughts to God that transform daily pressures of life into moments of spiritual enrichment (e.g., cultivating a spirit of more gratitude, seeing our work as a calling—no matter what our job is).

Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith, by Henri Nouwen, HarperCollins Publishers, 1997. $20.

This well-known author wrote these 366 devotional thoughts shortly before his death. Each day contains a brief but nsightful paragraph of Nouwen's reflecions on God, love, prayer, suffering, the church as God's people, etc. What we find here are key thoughts about what it means o seek God and to be faithful to God.

For instance, for Dec. 25 Nouwen writes: 'What is our task in this world as children of God and brothers and sisters of Jesus? Our task is reconciliation. . . . Because God ent Jesus to reconcile us with God and to give us the task of reconciling people with one another (see 2 Cor. 5:18). So whatever we do, the main question is, 'Does it lead to econciliation among people?'"

For a whole year of daily spiritual nourishment, this is indeed bread for our journey.

Spiritual Rx: Prescriptions for Living a Meaningful Life, by Fredric and Mary Ann Brussat, Hyperion, 2000. $23.95.

Thirty-seven spiritual practices (gratitude, ompassion, joy, listening, wonder, forgiveess, being present, etc.) are the subject of his guide for enriching one's spiritual life. The authors remind us that whatever we practice, that's what we become good at. So if we practice being angry, that is how we become. If, on the other hand, we practice grace, we become good at that. Each chapter begins with daily cues related to that practice, then a few paragraphs that discuss the practice, some quotes, a section on teachers of that practice, a section on videos, books, art, and music on that topic, spiritual exercises, questions for journaling, and group or community projects. Each of the 37 spiritual practices is thus dealt with comprehensively.

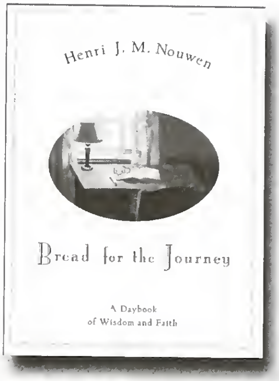
The Brussats have spent the last 30 years as reviewers of resources on spirituality. They draw on the depth of that expertise in recommending the best books to read and other mediums to explore regarding each practice.

Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives, by Wayne Muller, Bantam Books, 1999. $14.95.

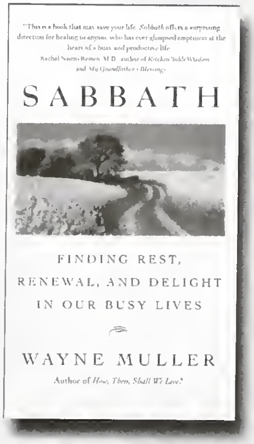
Muller emphasizes the importance of a rhythm in our lives that includes not only productivity and working, but also sabbath rest. In the same way that plants and animals follow natural circadian rhythms, human beings need the rhythm of work and rest. Muller reminds us that if we do not allow for this rhythm of rest in our overly busy lives, illness becomes our Sabbath. The commandment to "Remember the Sabbath" is not simply a lifestyle suggestion. It is a spiritual precept to restore our souls.

Each of the short chapters (such as "Rest for the Weary," "The Rhythm of Creation," or "Be Still and Know") ends with a "practice," a specific way to implement that concept into one's spiritual life. For example, on "Blessing," Muller suggests, "There are many ways to offer your blessing. You may bless your children . . . your friend, by placing your hand on their head, and offering a prayer for their healing, their well-being, their happiness. . . . Another practice invites us to bless strangers quietly, secretly. Offer it to people you notice on the street, in the market, on the bus. . . . Gently, almost without effort, each and every blessing becomes a Sabbath."—**Chris Douglas**

Chris Douglas is coordinator of youth and young adult ministry for the General Board.



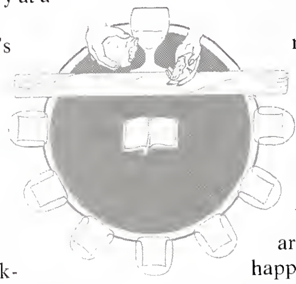
Spiritual Rx
Prescriptions for Living a Meaningful Life
Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat
The bestselling authors of Spiritual Literacy



Worshipful-Work

The new symbol for the Worshipful-Work organization in Kansas City was created by Don Parker of the Church of the Brethren.

The process began last January at a Worshipful-Work training event sponsored by the General Board's Congregational Life Ministries unit. During this three-day event at Bethany Theological Seminary, participants were invited to think about a new symbol for Worshipful-Work. One of those asked to put pencil to paper was Don Parker.



After several months of back-and-forth between Parker and the staff of Worshipful-Work, he finalized this image depicting "the table of the Board as a table of the Lord." Reports Ellen Morseth, of Worshipful-Work: "Our symbol is grounded in story, reflection, vision, and discernment, as well as our charism of integrating spirituality and administration in church governance."

Parker is a retired physician currently serving as vice chair of the General Board. He also chairs the Northern Ohio Brethren Conciliation Service and is active in the Association for the Arts in the Church of the Brethren. He enjoys the challenge of developing symbols and logos, but says, "Art for art's sake is not enough for me. I am happiest when my art serves the work of Christ through the church."

This article was adapted from Worshipful-Work's newsletter, "Gracious Space," September 2000.

J2K: New Hope, New Day

A status report on spirituality in action

Along with providing an opportunity for Brethren to celebrate Jesus' birth and to reflect on the turning of the millennium, "J2K: New Hope, New Day" has purposefully brought together many elements Brethren would include under the heading "spirituality."

Brethren have not been content to limit their spiritual life to traditional spiritual disciplines such as prayer and fasting. Many of our heritage see service, peace, and care for the creation as also deeply spiritual and to be fully integrated into our life with God.

During 2000, J2K has provided a springboard for individuals, congregations, districts, and the denomination to deepen its spiritual rootage in this broader sense, offering handles for those who see this as an important moment to assess our life of faith in light of the rapidly changing world around us. Many congregations have faithfully printed each month's prayer calendar and publicized the daily scripture readings. Tree planting and the creation of time capsules has taken place in local, district, and national settings. Offerings toward the "We're Building a House, the Lord's House" campaign have helped fund wood-conserving stove projects in Central America and community renewal in one of the poorest areas of the eastern shore of the US.

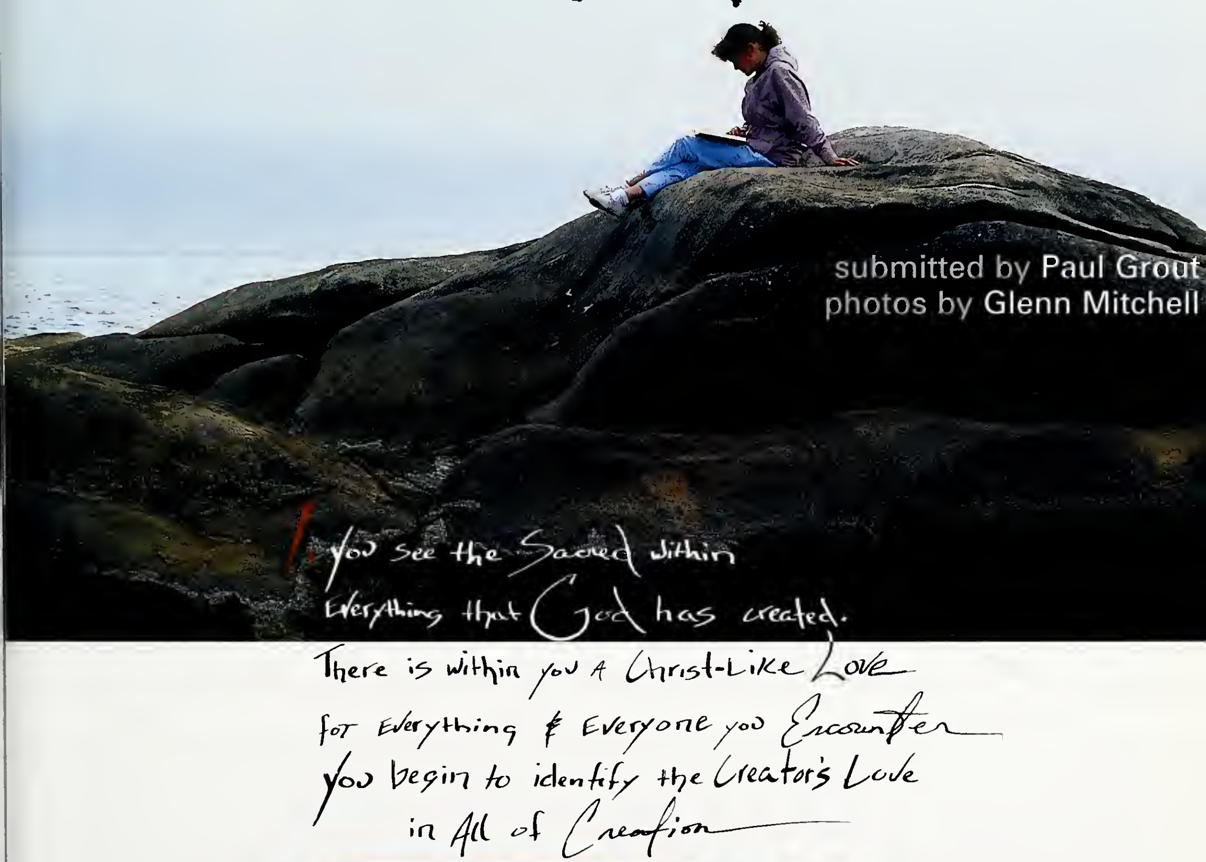
Capping the year will be a theological conference being jointly sponsored by the General Board and Bethany Theological Seminary. This event, to be held in Cincinnati Dec. 29-Jan. 1, will bring together Brethren from all points on the theological continuum to "Speak of Jesus" (the conference title) at this important moment in human history. Plenary sessions, worship services, Bible studies, and workshops will offer a high degree of participation, while also providing stimulating input from a wide array of presenters

A year with this many zeros attached only comes along, well, about once every thousand years. The goal of "J2K: New Hope, New Day" has been to enable Brethren to seize this moment as an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to Christ in the manner we do it best—by employing the full range of our life experiences in the service of the gospel, our neighbors, and our God.—**David Radcliff**

David Radcliff is director of the Office of Witness for the Church the Brethren General Board.

You are the Light of the World

Seven Symptoms of Wellness



submitted by Paul Grout
photos by Glenn Mitchell

1. you see the Sacred within Everything that God has created.
There is within you a Christ-Like Love for Everything & Everyone you Encounter
you begin to identify the Creator's Love in All of Creation

ul Grout, of Putney, Vt., is moderator-elect of the urch of the Brethren. The "Seven Symptoms of llness" is from an artistic book of spiritual ssages titled *The God Centered Life*. The book is ilable for $4 plus mailing cost from Georgia rkey, Southern Pennsylvania District Office, 6035 < Road, New Oxford, PA, 17350. Telephone '-624-8636 or e-mail gmarkey_ds@brethren.org.

nn Mitchell, a photographer and trained spiritual ector, is pastor of University Baptist and thren Church, State College, Pa.

2 You are learning to live in Quietness. You have broken with the Exhausting Pace of the World.

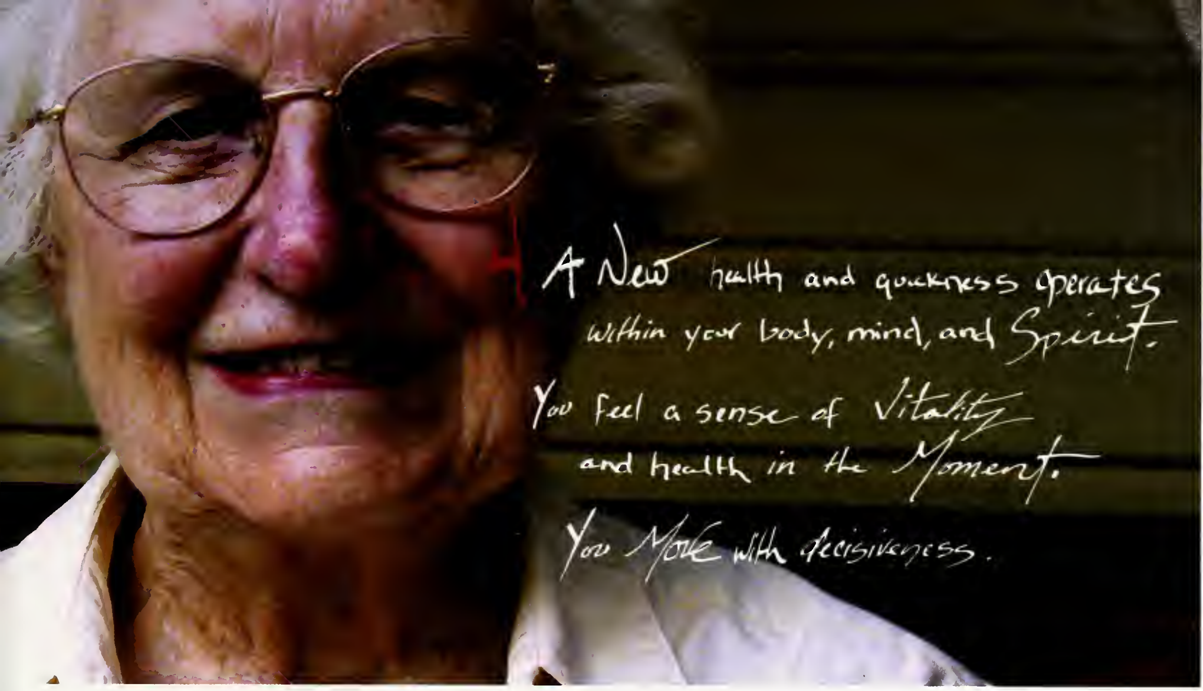
You have found a place of silence that is Refreshing your Soul.

You have experienced a sacredness in Silence.

3 You are becoming Child-like.

You are beginning to realize the happiness of a Child.

You approach All realationships with A Joyful child-like Anticipation.

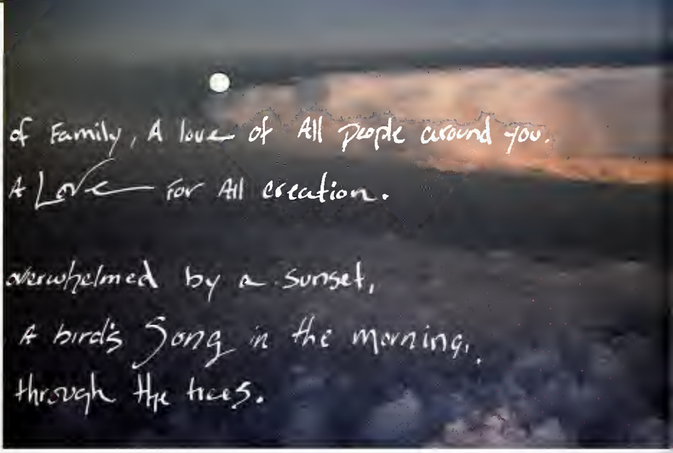


A New health and quickness operates
within your body, mind, and Spirit.
You feel a sense of Vitality
and health in the Moment.
You Move with decisiveness.

5 Your Gifts and passions are beginning to manifest
Themselves in ways that Bless you and others.

You have a clear Sense of God's calling.
Everything that has ever happened to You.
Everything that you have Ever experienced
gives Meaning to the present.

You have a desire to use your gifts
to Help others. You trust God to
Provide your Ministry.

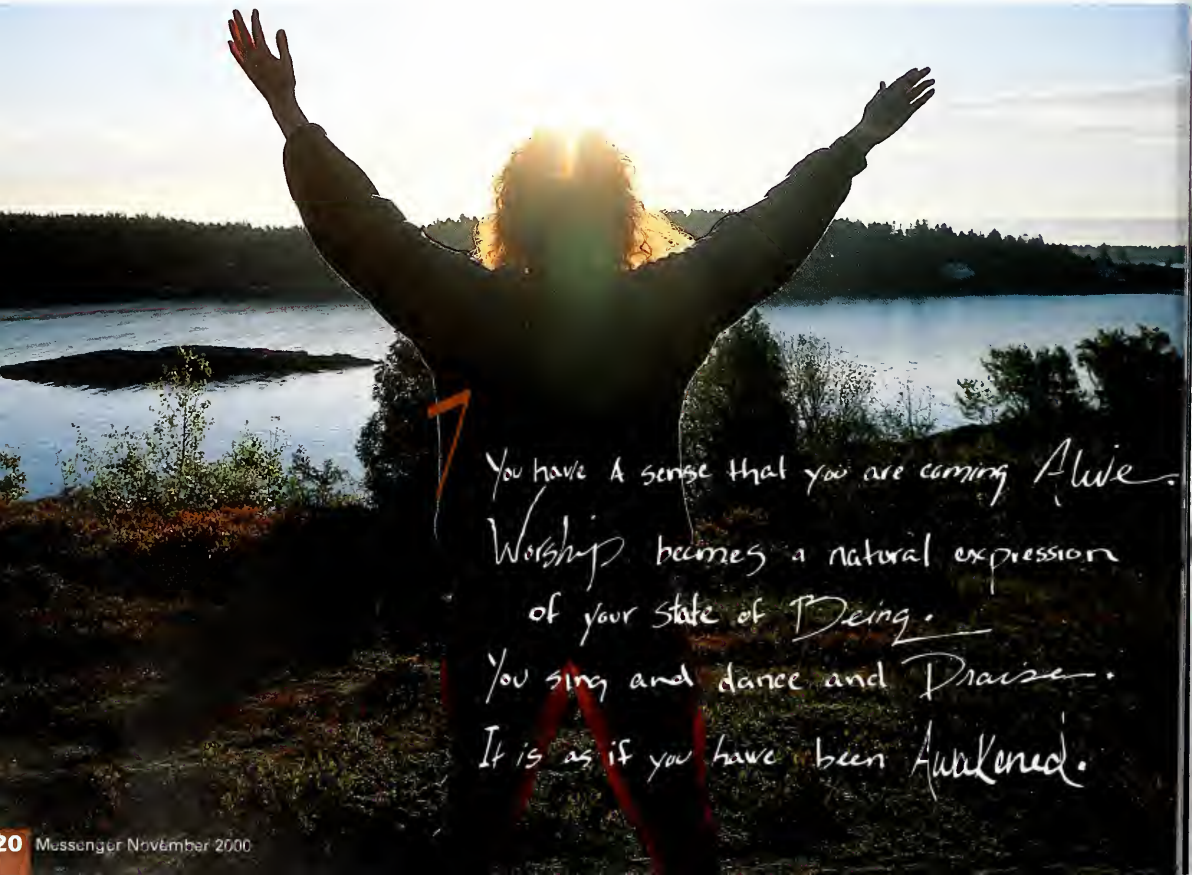


6 You carry in your Person A love of Family, A love of All People around you.
You carry in your person A Love for All creation.

You can become Almost overwhelmed by a sunset,
the moon over the Ocean, A bird's Song in the morning,
Wind blowing through the trees.

You Live in a spirit of thankfulness for Everything.

You see the damaging Effect of hatred, Apathy and Injustice
on All of Creation.



7 You have A sense that you are coming Alive.
Worship becomes a natural expression
of your state of Being.
You sing and dance and Praise.
It is as if you have been Awakened.

Abby Miller

Writing in her journal *is Ellen Shartner from Frederick, Md., at the "God-Centered Life" Youth Spiritual Life Camp at Shepherd's Spring camp.*

Catching the Spirit for Youth

A new emphasis on giving youth a "tool kit" for their experience with God

by Walt Wiltschek

Chris Douglas, coordinator of Youth/Young Adult Ministries for the Church of the Brethren General Board, had an epiphany of sorts a few years ago. "Like the lights came on," she calls it.

She was at a workshop led by Mark Yaconelli, who directs the Youth Spirituality Project at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Yaconelli talked about the way congregations lament the fact that youth are so active during high school, then leave the church when they become young adults.

Yaconelli said when he asked youth about the times they had felt closest to God, it was typically at camps, retreats, district and national conferences, workcamps and mission trips, and other major events. He pointed out that they all involved large peer groups and going away somewhere—opportunities that became far less frequent after the youth years.

Without realizing it, he said, churches had "taught an inaccessibility to God" once youth leave high school. The familiar channels all disappeared.

It led Yaconelli to take another look at how churches can do a better job of preparing youth in personal faith, like worship and a private devotional life. That, in turn, led him to venerable Christian practices like prayer, meditation on scripture, and quiet reflection. He became convinced that churches need to provide youth this "tool kit" of ways to experience God.

His observations struck a deep

Luke Croushorn

Washing feet during a worship time *at the Youth Spiritual Life Camp is Ben Keeney of Leola, Pa.*

"There's more awareness of a spiritual hunger in our culture. I'm amazed at all the places where that shows up. The question becomes, 'How do we in youth ministry help young people connect to God in a deeper kind of way and gain more intimacy with Jesus Christ?'"

chord with Douglas, and she hasn't looked at youth ministry the same way since. Somehow, congregations needed to help youth find deeper relationships with Jesus Christ and, through that, with the church family.

"Over the past 40-50 years, the church hasn't fostered that sense of connectedness," Douglas says. "We just cannot keep doing youth groups the way we've been doing them."

Many youth programs still work out of the traditional model of simply bringing youth together for "good, clean fun," she says, "holding them" in church until they become adults. The fun and fellowship are still important parts of those programs and shouldn't simply be discarded, but churches need to go beyond that.

"I think we're at a time culturally and spiritually where that model isn't enough anymore," Douglas says. "There's more awareness of a spiritual hunger in our culture. I'm amazed at all the places where that shows up. The question becomes, 'How do we in youth ministry help young people connect to God in a deeper kind of way and gain more intimacy with Jesus Christ?'"

She acknowledges that this is a major shift of approach for most churches, from a program-based model to one based on relationships–and most specifically on one's relationship with God.

At the same time, it calls churches to infuse youth ministry throughout the life of a congregation. Youth need to be involved in all phases of the church's ministry and surrounded with caring adults who will be encouragers, advocates, and role models through avenues such as mentoring and sharing significant responsibility.

A key book for Douglas in understanding this change of paradigms has been *The Godbearing Life*, by Kenda Creasy Dean and Ron Foster. Several copies sit on the counter in her Elgin, Ill., office.

In it lies a key line that pulls the pieces of this approach together. Dean and Foster write: "The question, then, is how do we invite youth more deeply into the practices of faith? The answer is deceptively simple: We become more deeply involved in the practices of faith."

"It's so easy to yearn for kids to be more spiritual," says Douglas, who has a 15-year-old daughter in her own home. "But how are kids ever going to learn if it's not in my own life to model and teach and pray for them? Adults must immerse themselves deeply in their own growth and relationship with God."

Coming youth spirituality events

- **Nov. 18** National Youth Ministry Workshop, "The God-Centered Life: What It Means to Be Alive," led by Paul Grout
- **Feb. 16-18, 2001** Young adult spirituality retreat at Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministry Center, Sharpsburg, Md.
- **March 9-11, 2001** "The God-Centered Life" youth advisor training session/retreat at Shepherd's Spring
- **May 26-28, 2001** National Young Adult Conference; theme: "The God-Bearing Life," led by Paul Grout at Brethren Woods, Keezletown, Va.
- **June 2001** Young adult workcamp/trip to Taizé community, France
- **July 29-Aug. 4, 2001** "The God-Centered Life" national youth spirituality camp at Camp Mack, Milford, Ind.

The renewed emphasis and intentionality on spirituality for both youth and advisors has already shown itself in a fresh vision in denominational programming.

A new project called "The God-Centered Life," done in partnership between the General Board and Shepherd's Spring Outdoor Ministries Center in Sharpsburg, Md., held a retreat/training for youth advisors and a camp for youth this past year, and similar events are planned for 2001, all drawing on leadership by Annual Conference moderator-elect Paul Grout.

Youth advisors are also being invited to a workshop focusing on the topic for a second straight year, this one with keynote leadership by Grout Nov. 18 in Chambersburg, Pa. And young adults are offered a retreat at Shepherd's Spring in February.

Beyond that, however, the emphasis also filters its way into other programming, like workcamps, resources, and the upcoming 2002 National Youth Conference.

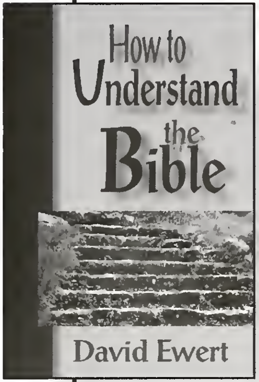
"It needs to be something that pervades everything we do in youth ministry," Douglas says.

She says the process of implementing and sharing this renewed vision is fun and energizing, and her enthusiasm is evident in the way she describes it. She hopes that others in the denomination who work with youth and who care about youth will continue to catch that excitement as well.

"It's time for the church to be more proactive in saying to kids, 'Your life is about more than your mind and body,'" according to Douglas. "'You have a soul that gets hungry, too, and needs to be attended to. And it's a relationship with God that feeds your soul.'" **M.**

Walt Wiltschek is manager of news services for the Church of the Brethren General Board. He also serves on the denominational Junior High Ministry Task Force and has served in youth ministry in several congregations.

The Godbearing Life can be ordered through Brethren Press. Call 800-441-3712 (order #0225, $14.95).



Have you ever wondered if you understood certain passages in the Bible correctly? Have you puzzled over differing applications of the Bible in the church? David Ewert's *How to Understand the Bible* can help you avoid serious pitfalls in interpreting and applying the Bible.

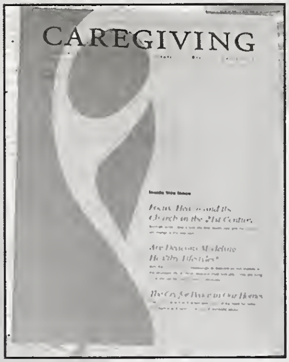
From a lifetime of interpreting and proclaiming the Word of God, Ewert shares guidelines on studying the Scriptures. He explains literary forms, idioms, and figures of speech from ancient cultures so we can understand their meanings for today. With apt illustrations, Ewert deals with many typical questions. He encourages all who look to the Scriptures for light on their daily path, strength in times of need, and hope for the age to come.

Paper, 240 pages, $14.99;
in Canada $22.29

Herald
Press

Orders: 1 800 759-4447
ww.mph.org

CAREGIVING IS



"*Caregiving* is excellent and I hope ABC continues with the same terrific content and design. Thumbs up!"

— R. Kurt Borgmann, pastor
Oakton Church of the Brethren, Vienna, Va.

CAREGIVING is a quarterly publication dedicated to providing practical information and the latest news about caring ministries for the Church of the Brethren. Learn about caring ministries including deacons, older adults, families, chaplains, retirement communities, disabilities and whole health. Subscriptions are available for $10 annually or at special congregation rates. Call ABC to subscribe.

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Association of Brethren Caregivers

1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120
phone 847-742-5100 fax 847-742-5160

Finding God

compiled by **Beth Sollenberger Morphew**
illustrations by **Jessica Grommes**

Recently on a whim I bought a meditation garden. While some in the family laughed at my spending so much on a tray of sand and stones packaged with a small plastic rake, I noticed they all took a turn at rearranging the sand and stones.

My meditation garden is the perfect illustration for a workshop on styles of prayer, but it looks a little strange sitting on our kitchen counter. However, as one who grew up in a gardening family, there is something quite satisfying about digging in the dirt, moving rocks, and nurturing plants, and sometimes offering a prayer in the midst of it all.

Traditionally Brethren have sought God in the midst of everyday work and events. Hymns can be sung in church just as well as while plowing or putting the baby to bed. Prayers can be prayed just as effectively over the phone or at the kitchen table as they can on our knees by the bedside or sitting in a church pew. Brethren are attuned to God and our calls to prayer, our reminders of God's presence, often happen in the midst of the daily routine. Four people have graciously shared a glimpse of how they seek and know God's blessing:

Traditionally Brethren have sought God in the midst of everyday work and events. Hymns can be sung in church just as well as while plowing or putting the baby to bed. Prayers can be prayed just as effectively over the phone or at the kitchen table as they can on our knees by the bedside or sitting in a church pew.

Many cookies, many prayers

Leaving the people from one congregation behind when moving to a new pastorate is hard. One of the ways I have stayed connected is to pray for people when I use one of their recipes. I don't know exactly when I started to do this. I do know that when I would find a recipe in a church cookbook or receive a recipe after a potluck I would type them on a card and include the name of the person sharing the recipe at the top of the card. Then when I pull that recipe out to make it, I pray for the person named. It is usually a general prayer because I don't really know what is going on in their life right now. But I ask God to protect them and offer them a blessing. And I thank God for that person.

I have one recipe that I received about 40 years ago. It is probably my most used one—chocolate chip cookies with oatmeal and brown sugar—and the one my family always asks for. I got it from Martha Long. The Longs kept our children several times when we went to Annual Conference and we returned the favor some-

n the Everyday

times on weekends. I've given thanks for the friendship many times over and we have eaten lots of those cookies.—**Pearl Hostetter, Goshen, Ind.**

God and the Great Blue

The morning was sunlit and already humid. As I drove from home toward the church my mind was whirling with a multitude of concerns. The road ahead curved down toward the little marsh that I pass every day. As the pond came into view I felt a familiar rush of joy and peace. A Great Blue Heron stood motionless in the shallow water.

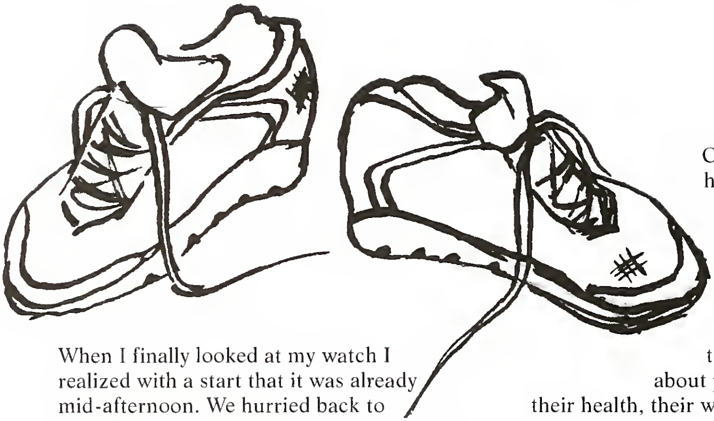
For over 15 years the sight of one of these beautiful gray-blue birds has been a source of special grace in my life, for the presence of this magnificent bird has become a symbol of God's Presence. Why this is so is a mystery I may never understand. But there have been countless times when the Great Blue has brought a deep sense of benediction, affirmation, reassurance, and blessing.

One evening at the end of a bittersweet vacation on Cape Cod, I was feeling deeply depressed as I thought about returning home the next day. Walking along a narrow path by Nauset Marsh I chanced upon a Great Blue. Only a few yards from where I stood, it stood, unmoving and unafraid. We shared the vast silence of that marsh as the sun sent golden-pink streaks across an azure sky. Somewhere deep within me a sense of peace welled up to embrace my sorrow. When the Great Blue finally flew away into the gathering twilight, its flight formed an unspoken benediction. When it had disappeared, I turned away, ready to return home.

Another time when my family was vacationing in Belize, my daughters and I had gone by boat and jeep to tour some Mayan ruins located about two hours away from the lodge where we were staying. Before we left, we had been warned that we would need to be sure to start the journey back in plenty of time. We had to return well before sunset because our guide could not navigate the river in darkness.

Reveling in the grand adventure of touring the vast Mayan ruins, I lost all sense of time.

Only a few yards from where I stood, it stood, unmoving and unafraid. We shared the vast silence of that marsh as the sun sent golden-pink streaks across an azure sky. Somewhere deep within me a sense of peace welled up to embrace my sorrow.



When I finally looked at my watch I realized with a start that it was already mid-afternoon. We hurried back to the landing, explaining that we must leave at once. A quick gathering of belongings got us launched with little delay, but I kept looking at my watch, making mental calculations. As we glided down the river toward our rendezvous with the jeep driver who would take us to another boat, my inner alarm kept sounding. Had we tarried too long?

Then, as we rounded a bend in the river I saw a Great Blue Heron. Its presence immediately calmed my fear. As we passed near it, the heron never moved. I felt a deep inner sense of assurance: we would make it on time. Just over two hours later we stepped out of the other boat, casting shadows onto the grassy landing in front of our jungle lodge. The sun was just beginning to set.

Over and over, in times of turmoil, doubt, stress, or exhaustion, a Great Blue Heron has flown across the sky above me, flown beside my car, or appeared in the most unexpected places. Always it brings me a sense of God's presence and caring. In the midst of some very difficult times, this special creature of our Creator reminds me that "All shall be well."—**Prue Yelinek, Waynesboro, Pa.**

> Each day I exercise for about 50 minutes, and those 50 minutes are all about prayer. I pray for the day, the moment, for grace, for mercy, for the presence of God.

Pumped up with prayer

Apart from prayer, I would not exercise. Movement and prayer have become habit for me, after years of disciplined application. Sometime in January 1996, at a silent retreat, a 36-hour period of silence at Bon Secours, I found myself running, literally, up a flight of stairs. Having been in silence for only 8 hours, I had 28 more to ponder why I was hurrying.

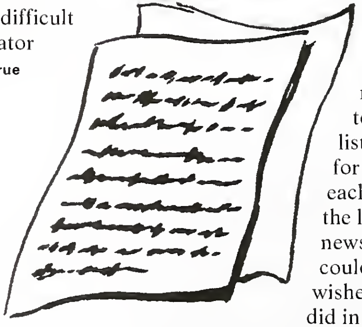
One result of that experience has been the disciplined and intentional combination of prayer and movement . . . slowing myself down.

Each day I exercise for about 50 minutes, and those 50 minutes are all about prayer. I pray for my family, their health, their wellbeing, their friends, their concerns, their day. I pray for the congregations of our district, the pastors, the districts, the agencies, the denomination. I pray for my mentors, my spiritual guides, my supervisors, and colleagues. I pray for my friends. I pray for my enemies. I pray for my critics. I pray for the day, the moment, for grace, for mercy, for the presence of God.

I pray for 50 minutes. I exercise while I pray. It works for me. I am blessed by and through it.—**Rich Hanley, McPherson, Kan.**

Praying down the list

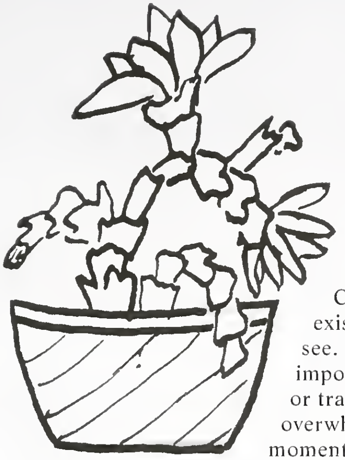
This all started when I was serving as the pastor of a local congregation. I kept a prayer list that covered the entire congregation over the course of a year. I would organize the list around birthdays and anniversaries and often felt led by the spirit to send cards or make phone calls.



When I became a district minister I continued to maintain a prayer list and regularly prayed for 5 or 6 congregations each week. I published the list in the district newsletter so that others could join me if they wished. One of the things I did in conjunction with praying was to send every pastor's child something at Christmas. It was often a fold-out Christmas card or a bookmark —something to let them know someone else was thinking of them. Once it was a bookmark that said "I was caught being good."

When I retired from the district minister position I kept the prayer list. I just add names sometimes. Pastors, people from district-related leadership positions, the denominational staff, and leaders of the other institutions of the church. I'm a deacon these days and that means we have 10 family units that I've added to my prayer list.

Sometimes when a person's name comes up I just have a little feeling that I need to check in and so I make a phone call. I have often found it to be timely when I learned what was going on in their lives. I was glad I called.
—Carroll M. Petry, North Manchester, Ind.

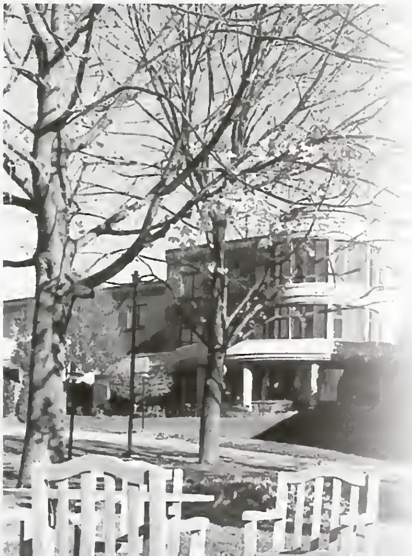


A crazy Christmas cactus

We have a "Christmas Cactus" at our house. I am sure it has bloomed for Christmas at least once in its existence, just never for me to see. It has bloomed at a few very important times. Times when stress or transition or despair were the overwhelming emotions of my moment. Those times when I most need a sign, that crazy cactus has come through and provided a bloom of hope, and a signal of God's abiding care. I am grateful!**—Beth Sollenberger Morphew**

> It has bloomed at a few very important times. Those times when I most need a sign, that crazy cactus has come through.

Beth Sollenberger Morphew, of Goshen, Ind., is Congregational Life Team Coordinator for Area 2.



Providing Superior Care for Your Peace of Mind

EVERYTHING YOU WANT
IN A SERENE YET CONVENIENT COUNTRY SETTING.

RESIDENTIAL LIVING IN CROSS KEYS VILLAGE
- HARMONY RIDGE APARTMENTS OR COTTAGES

DINING - PLANNED ACTIVITIES - TRANSPORTATION
ON-CAMPUS BANKING & MEDICAL FACILITIES

ASSISTED LIVING CENTER
- SHELTERED NEIGHBORHOOD
- PRIVATE ROOMS WITH BATH
- HEALTH CARE CENTER
- HOUSEKEEPING

EVERYTHING YOU NEED
- SUPPORT SERVICES
- HOME HEALTH SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE (ALZHEIMER'S) UNIT
- CROSS KEYS SUBACUTE CENTER
- ADULT DAY SERVICES
- SPECIAL CARE UNIT
- NURSING CARE
- RESPITE CARE

MEDICARE/MEDICAID APPROVED

Christian care since 1908

2990 CARLISLE PIKE - P.O. BOX 128
NEW OXFORD, PA 17350-0128
1-888-624-8242
WWW.BRETHRENHOME.ORG

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

The Brethren Home Community

Still fresh & green

The fifth National Older Adult Conference celebrates how seniors live and give

by Walt Wiltschek

The theme for this year's National Older Adult Conference was "Still Bearing Fruit, Still Fresh and Green," based on Psalm 92:14. The phrase, taken from the Phillips translation of the Scriptures, appeared on all conference materials and on a large banner at the event.

Of course, in the New Revised Standard Version it reads, "In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap." That chuckle-producing lead-in opened the door for conference personnel to have some fun explaining it.

Walt Wiltschek

Swing your partner. *William Pletcher of Elkhart, Ind., and Mary Sheesley of Oneonta, N.Y., enjoy square dance lessons led by Doris Coppock.*

Doreen Myers—who served as NOAC co-coordinator along with her husband, Carl—pulled one item after another out of a bag in an opening night skit. She determined that the theme did not relate to Fruit of the Loom products, or to eating green grapes, or to green currency.

A jug of maple syrup to illustrate being "full of sap" also failed to fill the bill. Scott Douglas of the Association of Brethren Caregivers, which sponsored the conference, assured her that the sap referred to being life-giving nourishment in the church.

Myers eventually came to the realization that the theme spoke to continuing vitality and growth in God in the later stages of life, of people "building a green and growing life." With that settled, she turned to the audience and said, "We're grateful for you coming to 'be fresh' with us."

The joke sparked another round of laughter, but it also served as a fitting introduction for a week in mid-September when Brethren of ages 50 and over demonstrated and shared their freshness in faith. Set among the mountains of western North Carolina at the waters of Lake Junaluska, the fifth edition of the biennial conference was as full of life as the robust vines on the theme materials.

Attendance was 1,050, up slightly from the 1,041 of two years ago and near the maximum for the lodging available. Participants came from 30 states, including Hawaii. They came from 21 of the 23 Church of the Brethren districts and from 236 congregations–including four who sent more than 25 people each. They came by plane, car, bus, and even motorcycle. Many were attending for the first time, although a group of more than 100 gathered for a photo of people who had been to all five NOAC events.

"I've been to all of them," said 95-year-old Ruby Witter of North Manchester, Ind., the conference's oldest attendee. "It's exciting. I like the people."

The program offered a week full of worship and Bible study, rest and recreation, food (especially ice cream) and fellowship, classes

Nevin Dulabaum

A large group came together *when everyone who had attended all five National Older Adult Conferences to date was asked to gather for a group picture.*

and crafts. A series of keynote speakers provided challenges, encouragement, and insights during general sessions each day.

Retired pastor Jimmy Ross said that "leaves and shade are no substitute for fruit," emphasizing that retirement isn't an excuse for sitting back. Former McPherson College president Paul Hoffman urged Brethren to have a distinctive identity, no longer by their clothes but by the way they give and live.

Former Kirkridge Retreat Center director Robert Raines wove humor through a list of tasks for creative aging, from waking up to one's own mortality to taking on the mysteries of grace and "practicing resurrection." Retired pastor Dean Miller based his message on the story of Jesus changing the water into wine at Cana, saying "God's surprises are like the rabbi's wine. There's more, and the best is yet to be."

Author and teacher Marva Dawn spoke twice despite a series of medical woes. She won over the crowd with warmth, depth, and passion. "We're branches on a vine," she said. "If you don't stay stuck, you don't bear much fruit. ...All of us have the hunger to be the kind of vines God wants us to be."

Two major evening sessions featured entertainment, with members of the North Manchester, Ind., Shepherd Center presenting an original drama called "Heavenly Days" one night and Mennonite comedy duo Ted & Lee performing their "Creation Chronicles" trip through the Old Testament on another.

Walt Wiltschek

A dynamic folk duo *of Don Pedi, on dulcimer, and Bruce Greene, on fiddle, performed Thursday afternoon.*

NOAC's nonagenarians: *Six people answered the call for those attending NOAC who were 90 or over this year. Pictured from left are Eula Fyock, Pauline Thompson, Emmert Gibble, Annie Heisey, Ralph Heisey, and Ruby Witter. Witter, at 95, is the oldest; Annie Heisey just turned 90. Four of the six live in Pennsylvania.*

Ninety-plus, and doing a lot more than counting

Most of the people attending this year's National Older Adult Conference brought a fair amount of life experience with them. A handful, however, brought a bit more experience than others: at least nine decades' worth.

Half a dozen Brethren responded to the call for all nonagenarians attending NOAC and assembled for a group picture one morning. Ruby Witter, 95, from North Manchester, Ind., was NOAC's oldest participant. Annie Heisey of Lancaster, Pa.–who attended with her 93-year-old husband, Ralph–just turned 90 the month before the conference.

All six of them agreed that they were glad they had made the trip to North Carolina.

"The religious services are excellent, and the scenery and air here are fantastic," said 91-year-old Pauline Thompson of St. Petersburg, Fla., attending her fourth NOAC. "You find the finest people that ever lived here. I intend to come back in two more years if I'm still on this earth."

Common to all of them were full and active lives, with activity continuing into their 90s. Emmert Gibble, 93, said he had farmed and spent nearly three decades working at Camp Swatara in Pennsylvania. Several had long teaching careers. Ralph Heisey said his travels had included trips to China, Israel, and many parts of Europe.

Eula Fyock, 91, of Lancaster, Pa., said she continues to volunteer regularly, sometimes escorting other Brethren Village residents to doctor or dentist appointments. And Witter said she frequently attends Elderhostel programs at an area university.

"It keeps me in contact with people," Witter said. "I like people."

And Annie Heisey proved that once a Brethren, always a Brethren. While praising many aspects of NOAC and all the Brethren interaction, she said one of her favorite things there is the food. "Especially the ice cream," she added.—**Walt Wiltschek**

Former General Board general secretary and Juniata College president Bob Neff delivered another highlight, sharing a series of three Bible studies from the Psalms. He addressed a different aspect of "Psalms for Older Adults" each day, speaking from Psalms 90, 92, and 96. Using his years of study and a variety of books, Neff traced through the journey of faith, including anger, prayer, relinquishing, nourishment, living in God's love, and—like the palm tree—bearing fruit even in the middle of the desert.

"We were really thrilled with the guest leadership," Carl Myers said. "People received them so well. I have very positive feelings about the experience."

Video segments by David Sollenberger and Larry Glick gave a glimpse, often humorous, of other conference activities such as ice cream socials, tournaments in various sports, handcraft sessions, concerts, and night-life activities like singing and folk dancing. Other segments highlighted Brethren who were exemplifying "fresh and green" lives, and one spotlighted Charles and Barb Simmons of Virginia, who were spending their honeymoon at NOAC.

More than 60 participants helped to put together school and health kits for Church of the Brethren disaster relief in a week-long service project. More than 300 kits were assembled and packed for volunteers to take to New Windsor, Md.

"We tried to think what a lot of people could become involved with on an informal basis," said Gerry Graybill, who coordinated the service project along with her husband, Harry. "Harry and I have worked on disaster projects and know how important these things are." The Graybills are from Glen Rock, Pa., members of the Black Rock Church of the Brethren.

Also at NOAC were executives and board chairs of the five Annual Conference agencies, Annual Conference officers, and representatives of Standing Committee and the Council of District Executives, holding their InterAgency Forum meetings in conjunction with NOAC. Members of the group sat on a "State of the Church" panel one evening and fielded questions from a large audience.

Other events included "interest group" sessions on a host of topics, vesper services, a resource fair with displays and presentations from a variety of organizations, bookstores, and boat tours on the lake.

And in between it all were many conversations, walks among rose gardens, visiting and catching up, sharing ideas, learning new things, and demonstrating the gifts and wisdom that this segment of the church has to offer.

An afternoon "antiphonal vespers" *had three groups singing and reading scripture to each other around the lake. Two groups stood at lake's edge, and one went out on the water in a pontoon boat.*

Going head-to-head for a round of shuffleboard *are Verna Calloway of Queen Anne, Md., and Jean Judy of Greenwood, Del.*

A gray-haired woman sitting in the second ow of one session summed it up. She looked p at the NOAC banner and turned to a friend eside her:

"Still fresh and green," she said, reading he words of the theme. "I like that."

Valt Wiltschek is manager of news services for the Church of the rethren General Board and still a couple decades away from qualifying to attend NOAC as a participant.

ADD NEW MUSIC TO YOUR WORSHIP LIFE!

Hymnal
SUPPLEMENT

Since *Hymnal: A Worship Book* was published in 1992, many new hymns and songs have been written. This new hymnal supplement series offers congregations a cost effective method to add this new music and older favorites not in the hymnal to your worship.

There are currently nine supplements in development, with three to be released in 2001. Here is a sampling of hymns that are likely to appear in these first three supplements:

Lent/Easter/Pentecost
Man of sorrows, what a name
He is Lord
I come to the garden
Now the green blade rises
Spirit, spirit of gentleness

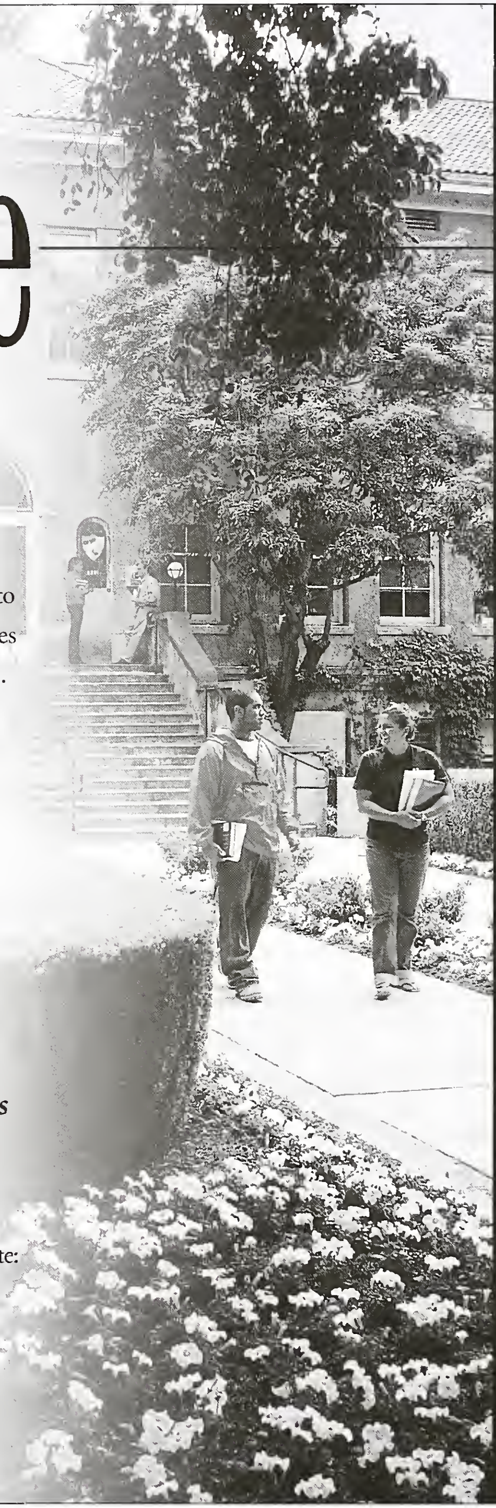
Praising/Adoring
Shine, Jesus, Shine
Si tu puedes, cantalo
Bring many names
Great day
Jubilate, everybody

Advent/Christmas/Epiphany
Light one candle to watch for Messiah
While we are waiting, come
In the bleak midwinter
We three kings of Orient are
He is born

For more information, or to order the supplements, see the November Source packet or call Brethren Press.

Brethren Press®

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188 e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org



Value

A Brethren education is affordable!

We believe that a Brethren education should be available to every student, and most families find us surprisingly affordable .

Our aid programs—a combination of merit-based scholarships; need-based aid from institutional, federal and state sources; and campus employment—will help you make a Brethren education an investment in your future.

A Brethren education is a valued investment... in YOU!

For more information about Brethren colleges, visit our website: www.cobcoa.org or email: cobcoa_gb@brethren.org or call 1-800-323-8039

Brethren Colleges Abroad
North Manchester, Indiana
(219) 982-5238

Bethany Theological Seminary
Richmond, Indiana
1-800-287-8822
ext. 1810

Bridgewater College
Bridgewater, Virginia
1-800-759-8328

Elizabethtown College
Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania
(717) 361-1400

Juniata College
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania
1-800-526-1970

University of La Verne
La Verne, California
1-800-876-4858

Manchester College
North Manchester, Indiana
1-800-852-3648

McPherson College
McPherson, Kansas
1-800-365-7402

Church of the Brethren Collaboration on Admissions

COBCOA

> "Thank you for reminding us of our task as Christians in this election—to hold our elected officials accountable for the welfare of those who are oppressed."

Politics and prayer for Sudan

In the flurry of banalities and trivialities surrounding the November election, it is refreshing to read "Steady until the sun sets" in the September MESSENGER. Thank you for reminding us of our task as Christians in this election—to hold our elected officials accountable for the welfare of those who are oppressed.

You reminded us that the Sudan civil war has killed nearly 2 million people, more than were killed in Kosovo. Even though the number of war victims in Sudan is higher than those in Chechnya, Kosovo, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Somalia combined, we hear nothing about it.

You reminded us to pray even as Christians prayed for the seeming impossible task of ridding South Africa of apartheid.

As Christians, we need to turn the attention of national election candidates to the tragedy in Sudan and to pray for its end.

Jean Lersch
St. Petersburg, Fla.

Evangelism needs leadership

Thank you for the good coverage of Annual Conference in the September issue.

Regarding Gerald Crouse's comments at the dinner sponsored by the General Board's Global Mission Partnerships office, I agree with his statement, "If we don't practice verbal evangelism, we're living in sin." Therefore, I was disappointed in the vote to return the Virlina District query on evangelism. The vigorous debate and the close vote indicates that many of us delegates thought there should be a greater emphasis on evangelism at the national level. It is very true that each of us has the responsibility to practice verbal evangelism, but the Lord has given the gift of evangelism to some.

Therefore, it is the responsibility of leadership to make those evangelists available to the churches. We don't need more literature, we need the existing literature and the church leaders to enthusiastically call church members to obey Jesus' call to be verbally proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. We also need to identify, fund, and make available gifted evangelists to come into our churches to reap a harvest among those we have personally ministered to and befriended.

Marion "Bud" Sechler
Pastor, Cando Church of the Brethren, Cando, N.D.

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

This is a periodical publication

Publication Title: Messenger

Publication Number: 0026-0355

Filing Date: September 27, 2000

Owner: Church of the Brethren
General Board
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120-1694

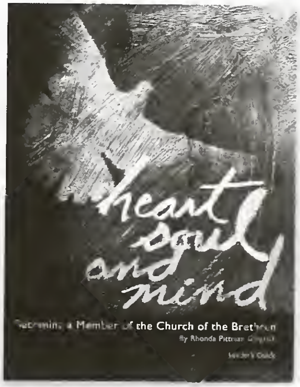
Publisher: Wendy McFadden
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120-1694

Editor: Fletcher Farrar
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120-1694

Total Circulation: 16,984

Cost: $16.50

"Teacher, which commandment is the greatest?" Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment."
Matthew 22:36-38


heart soul and mind
Becoming a Member of the Church of the Brethren
By Rhonda Pittman Gingrich
Leader's Guide

Giving God your heart, soul, and mind is central to the decision to be baptized as a Christian and become a member of the Church of the Brethren. *Heart, Soul, and Mind* is an adaptable membership curriculum for congregations to use with youth and adults who are exploring a deeper commitment to Christian discipleship.

Four units of study explore what Brethren should know about the Bible, church history, living the faith, and church membership. The Leader's Guide (#9922, $24.95) includes reproducible handouts for students, ideas for a mentor program, and an apprenticeship program. The Membership Handbook for students (#9923, $9.95) contains readings, exercises, and journal starters, and is valuable as a keepsake and benchmark of faith development. A video (#9924, $19.95) featuring Brethren youth talking about faith is also available to supplement the curriculum.

Candidates for membership will be engaged —heart, soul, and mind—to love God, love their neighbor, and join in the community of faith.

Brethren Press
This day.

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120-1694
phone 800-441-3712 fax 800-667-8188 e-mail brethrenpress_gb@brethren.org

More light on evangelism

It pained me to miss Annual Conference this year. In the September MESSENGER I gave careful attention to the excellent report you gave of this year's Conference. But I couldn't find any satisfactory answer as to why Standing Committee and the Conference "returned" the Virlina query. I write to invite further light on this question of Brethren evangelism and disciple-making.

After about 250 years of continued growth, including some decades of significant growth when membership more than doubled, the Church of the Brethren now has been in a steady and serious decline for about 40 years. We now have only two-thirds as many members as in 1960. A former moderator of Annual Conference has stated, "The denomination ... has not yet come to grips with the problem of membership decline that continues each year unabated." If our method or form or style of evangelism has not worked in 40 years, it seems time for a change. If not the change that was proposed by the Virlina District, why didn't Standing Committee propose for Conference action a revised procedure that could be effective?

The Gospels clearly report that the calling/making of disciples was a top priority of Jesus, and his final commission to his followers was to "Go make disciples." The book of Acts dramatically reports how the early disciples "continued the work of Jesus." Is there any valid reason why we Brethren are not doing the same?

In the September MESSENGER you quoted a brief statement of Gerald Crouse of our Dominican mission. He stated: "We are a non-evangelistic church. Jesus' call is a call to be about verbally proclaiming the Good News .... If we don't we're living in sin." If he's correct, then most of us Brethren are living in sin!

Olden D. Mitchell
North Manchester, Ind.

Many Brethren homes

This letter is to say how I enjoyed reading the issue of MESSENGER devoted to Brethren homes [August]. Since I live near Peter Becker Community (Harleysville, Pa.), I visit there now and then. It is a wonderful home with good care.

I had no idea we, the Brethren, had that many nursing homes!

Mary E. Hixson
Quakertown, Pa.

Put "companion" in the name

Are Brethren viewed as an exclusive sect like some of the fraternal organizations in our society—the Knights of Columbus, the Masons, etc.? Our denomination's

Our hours are about to change...

BrethrenPress com

OPEN ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB
THANKSGIVING 2000

CLASSIFIEDADS

Christian Family Practice group is seeking a family physician and/or a physician extender (PA-C or RN-FNP) to join our growing practice. We are located in North Central Indiana, near Goshen. We provide obstetrics with many deliveries done at an Amish Birthing Center near Shipshewana. Opportunities for short- or long-term missions. Independently owned (six physicians & one PA) and committed to remaining sensitive to the needs of the local community. Option to buy in. Contact Steve Wendler, Administrator, at Middlebury Family Physicians, PO Box 459, Middlebury, IN 46540. Day telephone: 219-825-2900 Evening: 219-825-7506.

North Manchester Indiana Family Practice Clinic is seeking Board Certified Family Practice Physicians. You would be joining our group of 3 FP's and 1 NP who practice the full continuum of Primary Care including Obstetrics, Inpatient and Preventative Medicine in a small college town. Our clinic is across the street from Manchester College, a liberal arts college with an enrollment of 1100 students. Located in NE Indiana on the Eel River, North Manchester, population 6500, is only 20 minutes form Wabash County Hospital with OB/GYN and a wide range of specialty support available. Tertiary hospital available in nearby Fort Wayne. Our community has its own symphony, a superb new library with children's programs, fine schools and two major non-profit retirement homes (one CoB). Tour our town at www.nmanchester.com. For additional information about our opportunity please contact Lynn Hatfield, Director of Physician Recruitment at 1-800-727-8439, ext. 22183 or email at lhat@parkview.com.

Position available: The Chambersburg Church of the Brethren is seeking a half-time Coordinator of Christian Education to administer and expand its educational programs for children, youth and adults. Anticipated start date is January 1, 2001. College degree and word processing skills preferred. Training and/or experience required. Consideration of applications will begin November 15th and will continue until position is filled. Send cover letter and resume to: Search Committee, Chambersburg Church of the Brethren, 260 S. Fourth Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201.

Travel—TWO TOURS. (1) "CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION" Featuring—Crossing the Red Sea, St Catherine Monstery on Mt Sinai, Petra and the Hol Land. March 16-29, 2001. **(2) "ROYAL HOLIDAY"** Featuring—The British Isles. Visiting: England Scotland, Wales and Ireland. July 24 - August 8 2001. Wendell and Joan Bohrer, 8520 Royal Meadow Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46217. Tel/fax 317-882-5067 E-mail rdwboh@aol.com.

Spread the Word! Use Messenger classifieds t let people know what's going on. $55 purchases single issue insertion of up to 80 words. Frequenc discounts are available. Submit ads via fax (847 742-1407), e-mail (kstocking_gb@brethren.org) o letter (Messenger Classifieds, 1451 Dundee Ave. Elgin IL 60120). Deadline is first of month prior t month of publication. Advertise today!

LETTERS

> "Considering the importance of the love feast and foot washing as symbols of what we try to live, either "companion" or "servant" better express who we are than "brethren" "

descriptor may give that impression to some who know us only by name.

Many who have grown up in the Church of the Brethren cherish the name "Brethren" because of its link to history and tradition. Changing the name might seem like dishonoring or doing away with all the things that we hold dear and unique about our heritage. On the other hand, many who might be drawn to the Church of the Brethren because of similar beliefs are repulsed by a name which implies that it is a closed, male-dominated society, interested only in people born or bred as Brethren. A new name which keeps "Brethren" but adds an inclusive word might be a solution addressing both concerns.

The word "companion" means com (with) panion (bread), or those we break bread with. We might consider adopting this word as part of our name—perhaps along with the name "Brethren"—to reflect both history and inclusivity. Some suggestions are: Brethren/ Companions in Christ, Companions/ Brethren in Christ, The Church of Companions/ Brethren in Christ, or The Church of Christ's Companions/Brethren. Considering the importance of the love feast and foot washing as symbols of what we try to live, either "companion" or "servant" better express who we are than "brethren."

Lois T. Dickason
South Haven, Mich.

TURNING POINTS

This month's Turning Points includes all listings received prior to 9/21/00 not previously published. Forms for submitting Turning Points information are available by calling Peggy Reinacher at 800-323-8039.

New members

Arcadia, Ind.: Anna Chase
Beaverton, Mich.: Karen Phillips Kalahar
Blue Ridge, Va.: Mike Hogan, Sandra Hogan, Polly Creasy
Cabool, Mo.: Allison Clary, Maurice Bosserman, Sandy Bosserman
Denton, Md.: Allison Holsinger
East Cocalico, Reamstown, Pa.: Jena Hagy, Judy Lewis, John Stolsfus, Dudley Michael, Priscilla Michael
Ephrata, Pa.: Patrick Land, Stacey Land, Robert Wanner, Darla Wanner, Keith Petters, Elizabeth Horning, Lindsey Heck, Jessica Snyder, Nathan Kapp, Eric Miller, Kaitlyn Ream, Quintin Eisemann
Geiger, Friedens, Pa.: Ruth Hahn, Levi Hahn, Lindsay Hahn, Christine Lindsey
Grossnickle, Myersville, Md.: Cathie Clemson, Thomas Westwood, James Blank, Hansel Pate, Shawn Delauter, Jordan Grossnickle, Elwood Stottlemyer, Ryan Wiles, Danny Rumpf, Hazel Grossnickle, Lori Cline
Hanover, Pa.: Kathy Accardi, John Burkentine, Ted Schmittel, Brock Swartz, Lance Rusinko
Lewiston, Maine: Nicholas True
Lewiston, Minn.: Tim Borkowski, Brenda Kirby, Jennifer Pospichal
Liberty Mills, Ind.: Elizabeth Griffin, Sierra Rose, Harry Barrett, Debby Barrett
Maple Spring, Hollsopple, Pa.: Kelly Hay, Scott Hay, Lauren Seganos, Alex Shroyer
Maple Spring, Eglon, W.Va.: Hancell Teets, Mildred Teets, Richard Norwish, John Allman, Erma Gnegy, Paul Gnegy, Devin Hauser, Brian Kight, Craig Rembold, Lonnie Bentley, Linda Bentley, Kenneth Biser, Edith Biser
Nampa, Idaho: Leon Gonion, Irene Gonion, JoAnne Holtz, Al Brown, Marian Brown, Gary Sloughfy, JuliAnne Bowser Sloughfy
New Hope, Stuart, Va.: Tim Harvey, Lynette Harvey, Jasen Pfuntner, Jackie Pfuntner, Fern Wimmer, Andrew Wimmer, Mark Jones, Laura Jones, Julie Crotts, Amanda Seay
New Paris, Ind.: Dorothy Watkins, Joe Godfrey, Phil Kuhn, Susie Martin
Prairie City, Iowa: Kim Clark, Christina Nolin, Amy Patterson, Holly Maggard
Shiloh, Moatsville, W.Va.: Mackey Laulis, Mary Stuckey
Union Center, Nappanee, Ind.: Mark Person, Heila Martin-Person, Don Housour, Phyllis Housour, Ruth Yoder, Bronson Weaver, Andrea Holdeman

Wedding anniversaries

Bell, Harold and Ruth, Eaton, Ohio, 60
Bloss, William and Lois, Uniontown, Ohio, 50
Chamberlin, Eugene and Margaret, San Diego, Calif., 60
Chestnut, Walter and Betty, Newville, Pa., 55
Cocklin, Robert and Doris, Carlisle, Pa., 55
Fickes, Leroy and Doris, Newville, Pa., 50
Gomis, Paul and Helen, Des Moines, Iowa, 50
Jacoby, Robert and Esther, Newville, Pa., 55
Jane, Frank and Ila, Johnstown, Pa., 50
Koons, Carroll and Vera, Des Moines, Iowa, 50
Knox, Glenn and Doris, Uniontown, Pa., 50
Mikel, John and Dora, Wakarusa, Ind., 50
Miller, Gene and Eloise, New Lebanon, Ohio 50
Moore, Maurice and Doris, Waterloo, Iowa, 50
Myers, Donald and Mary, Alliance, Ohio, 50
Parrish, Dick and Helen, Continental, Ohio, 55
Reid, Gerald and Fredith, Newville, Pa., 60
Reid, Markwood and Judy, Newville, Pa., 50
Ritter, John and Freda, Uniontown, Pa., 65
Sayre, John and Gaynell, Bridgewater, Va., 50
Shively, Ralph and Catherine, Bridgewater, Va., 50
Smith, Gerald and Eleanor, Newville, Pa., 50
Stump, Richard and Martha, Wakarusa, Ind., 50
Wolfe, Lavern and Donna, Uniontown, Pa., 50
Young, Alvin and Dorothy, Hartville, Ohio, 60

Deaths

Atkins, Nina, 71, Nampa, Idaho, Dec. 15
Barnthouse, Darwin, 82, Arlington, Va., March 20
Barnthouse, Pauleen, 81, Arlington, Va., March 20
Barrett, Devere, 78, Johnstown, Pa., Aug. 15
Biser, Effie O., 88, Springfield, Va., Feb. 21
Blickenstaff, Margaret, 96, Boise, Idaho, June 10
Bohlander, Lois, 67, Pleasant Hill, Ohio, Aug. 27
Bowman, Mamie Virginia Carrier, 91, Bridgewater, Va., Aug. 18
Boyd, Ralph L., 91, Myerstown, Pa., Aug. 14
Burket, Freda M., 91, Martinsburg, Pa., July 29
Burkholder, Harlan, 89, Nampa, Idaho, June 8
Byerly, Robert A., 85, Lancaster, Pa., June 19
Chapman, Bobby Dean, 57, Petersburg, W.Va., Aug. 16
Chavanne, Harriet, 89, Saint Petersburg, Fla., Aug. 25
Cline, Mary Agnes, 99, Bridgewater, Va., Aug. 30
Combs, Elwanda May, 76, Moorefield, W.Va., Aug. 26
Crider, Clyde Vernon, 75, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 8
Cunningham, Dorothy B., 91, Uniontown, Pa., July 21
Curry, Beulah, 78, Oxon Hill, Md., March 18
Dellinger, Forrest Owen, 78, Mount Jackson, Va., Aug. 23
Dick, Carlyle, 87, Clymer, Pa., Sept. 11
Driver, Donna Lillian Miller, 75, Dayton, Va., Aug. 30
Eisemann, Quintin, 79, Ephrata, Pa., July 25
Eshelman, Doris, 95, Nampa, Idaho, Jan. 21
Fike, Homer Leland, 99, Eglon, W.Va., Aug. 12
Flory, Dorothy, 96, Nampa, Idaho, Nov. 25
Good, Samuel C., 73, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 23
Goings, Paul, 86, New Lebanon, Ohio, Aug. 5
Gray, Thelma, 86, Vinton, Va., Jan. 22
Gusttason, Virginia, 89, Des Moines, Iowa, May 13
Halterman, Arthur Casper, 70, Baker, W.Va., Aug. 29
Halterman, Wayne Alfred, 71, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 2
Hamilton, Edward, 83, Santa Clarita, Calif., Aug. 9
Hammer, Nellie Icadora, 87, Franklin, W.Va., Aug. 5
Hancock, Roland M., 57, Harwood, Md., Sept. 7
Harman, James Gordon, 89, McGaheysville, Va., Aug. 17
Harper, Betty J., 72, Thurmont, Md., Aug. 20
Harsh, Abbie A., 81, Fort Ashby, W.Va., Aug. 10
Heckman, Lulu, 90, Dayton, Ohio, Sept. 9
Hinkle, Richard Samuel, 76, Riverton, W.Va., Aug. 26
Holsinger, Paul G., 101, Martinsburg, Pa., July 25
Hoover, Ruby B., 99, Timberville, Va., Aug. 14
Hoover, Velma Marie, 68, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 4
Howe, Robert, Ephrata, Pa., July 16
Huber, Helen, 95, Mount Morris, Ill., May 31
Jennings, John R., 73, Kansas City, Kan., Aug. 12
Kelly, Mary C., 86, Johnstown, Pa., Jan. 16
Lupton, Maxine, 79, Nampa, Idaho, July 1
Meller, Vernon R., 60, Seven Valleys, Pa., Aug. 17
Miller, Miriam R., 78, Hartville, Ohio, June 30
Moyers, Daisie Anna Fifer, 84, Elkton, Va., Aug. 11
Murray, Dorothy Garst, 84, Roanoke, Va., Aug. 24
Myers, Donald, 83, Greensburg, Pa., June 3
Nesemeier, Berniece, 85, Mount Morris, Ill., June 8
Ott, Clarence, 77, Hollsopple, Pa., Feb. 17
Owens, Liza V., 89, Moatsville, W.Va., April 23
Pippenger, Harold, 88, Wakarusa, Ind., July 21
Prugh, Virgil, 90, Vandalia, Ohio, Aug. 28
Rembold, Bruce Edwin, 48, Eglon, W.Va., Aug. 12
Reynold, Thomas R., 70, York, Pa., Aug. 12
Riddle, Vera, 102, Johnstown, Pa., Feb. 5
Ryman, Norman Elwood, 83, Woodstock, Va., Aug. 4
Sanner, Richard, 85, Greensburg, Pa., July 30
Shaw, Pearl, 84, Uniontown, Pa., July 22
Smeltzer, Mary, 84, Nappanee, Ind., June 15
Smith, Marie, 92, Nappanee, Ind., Feb. 11
Spencer, William Lester, 88, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 27
Spessert, Cloyd, 92, Saint George, W.Va., April 17
Stewart, Martha, 73, Sidney, Ohio, April 15
Stoneberger, Marie H., 74, Stanley, Va., Aug. 10
Stoner, Warren, 86, Johnstown, Pa., Jan. 5
Stouder, Dale, 85, Nappanee, Ind., June 15
Strigent, Karen, 45, Johnstown, Pa., May 31
Swank, Clarence Dean, 71, Somerset, Pa., Aug. 16
Taylor, Florence, Boise Idaho, June 11
Thomas, K. Annette, 79, Mount Morris, Ill., Aug. 31
Warn, Dean, 82, Nampa, Idaho, Nov. 28
Werstler, Robert E., 75, Canton, Ohio, May 28
Young, Dorothy G., 80, Hartville, Ohio, July 9
Zappone, Roberta, 53, Latrobe, Pa., Sept. 1

Treasure hunt in Tijuana

Just because these were good people in a good endeavor doesn't mean there were no difficulties or tedious moments, but the Holy Spirit gave the group enough energy to overcome the obstacles.

While others in their college graduating classes are looking for the best money deal they can get, these young adults are seeking another form of treasure. Their minds still busy from 50-page papers and heavy intellectual activity, they seem eager to take on the world and drink in all its culture. But, like generations of rare youth before them, they have postponed paying back their college loans and a chance to get started up the corporate ladder, and have entered the upside-down world of Brethren Volunteer Service, where the pay is $50 a month and an opportunity to pass out sandwiches on Skid Row in East Los Angeles. That is where in early October I met up with the most recent BVS orientation unit, #241. After only four days with this group of 19 happy explorers, I could see why some go from here to a lifetime of service. It's because some find treasure. Some fall in love.

> "My child," the author of Proverbs addresses BVSers, "if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; if you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding; if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures—then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God (Prov. 2:1-5)."

It is not a simple path from BVS to treasure, yet enough volunteers must find it to keep others coming back to look. This orientation unit had already found the treasure of openness and warmth. I was first impressed by this group's friendliness to me as a stranger in their midst, something that doesn't always come naturally from youngsters toward people the age of their parents. And then I took note of their support for each other. The group had bonded through intentional community-building exercises and simple time together during the previous two weeks of orientation at Camp La Verne. One of the three older volunteers, a retired teacher, said she felt totally accepted by the kids, who called her "Grandma." There were no cliques and no put-downs, not even in jest. To describe this luminous camaraderie, I kept going back to the hymn we sang that Sunday when we visited the Imperial Heights Church of the Brethren in Los Angeles: "There's a sweet, sweet, spirit in this place, And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord."

Just because these were good people in a good endeavor doesn't mean there were no difficulties or tedious moments, but the Holy Spirit gave the group enough energy to overcome the obstacles. In Tijuana, Mexico, we had assembled bags of food for the needy, even though part of our group felt after the Skid Row experience that such handouts were demeaning to both the needy and us. "Don't be frustrated that you're only providing a drop in the bucket," said one of our group. "At least it's better than no drop in the bucket." Some of us weren't so sure.

When we arrived to deliver the food, we learned that the homeless had already gone home for the day. Another part of our group went, without enough tools or supplies and with no drinking water, to try to put a roof on a purple building with joists so uneven that each plywood sheet had to be custom-fit. The day included plenty of waiting around for something to happen, which was good training for volunteer service where you're not always in control. After awhile the crooked purple shack had a fine new roof, finished off with a fascia trim just to make it look nice. When we went back to deliver food the next day, even the reluctant among us were gratified by the warm smiles and voices of "muchas gracias" from our recipients.

Mission work probably always involves a good bit of holy fumbling around. So does falling in love. When a man and a woman fall in love they do not start out with a very complete plan for doing so. No, first they fall in love, and then they look back to find reasons why and how they did. Abbott Andrew Marr writes about this: "Although falling in love is something that happens *to* us, we are not likely to be overpowered by another person without going on a treasure hunt. It is possible to stumble over a treasure without looking for it, but looking for it greatly increases the chances we will find it. If we search, we will find; if we knock, the door will be opened for us. We must, then, cultivate within ourselves an openness to finding God's treasure, a willingness to fall in love. If all we are looking for is the best deal, we will find it, but the best deal is not a treasure and it has nothing to do with love."

On our last day in Tijuana, we gathered in a circle to pray and sing with a woman whose toddler grandson is responding poorly to cancer treatment. As I joined hands with these young people, who had crossed borders and cultures to meet poverty and work with God to relieve it, I could feel the presence of the Spirit of the Lord. And it felt like falling in love.—FLETCHER FARRAR

CHRISTIANS CALL FOR

A SHARED JERUSALEM

Heritage, Hope & Home of Two Peoples and Three Religions

Jerusalem at peace
cannot belong exclusively
to one people, one country or one religion

Jerusalem should be open to all,
shared by all—
two peoples and three religions

Jerusalem is a sacred city to
Jews, Christians and Muslims, the children of Abraham.
All long for Jerusalem to be the City of Peace.
For most of its history the fate of Jerusalem was determined
by war. Now the ancient hope for peace can become
reality through negotiations.

Churches for Middle East Peace asks you to join in urging the United States government to call upon negotiators to move beyond exclusivist claims and create a Jerusalem that is a sign of peace and a symbol of reconciliation for all humankind.

The Call for a Shared Jerusalem has been endorsed by the top leaders of the Church of the Brethren and American Friends Service Committee, Catholic Conference of Major Superiors of Men's Institutes, Christian Church (Disciples), Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Mennonite Central Committee, National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, Presbyterian Church (USA), Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church.

Sign up online at **cmepdc@aol.com** or return this form to: **CHURCHES FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE**
110 Maryland Ave. NE • Suite 108 • Washington, DC 20002 **www.cmep.org**

Please Join the Shared Jerusalem Advocacy Network

NAME :
ADDRESS :
CITY:
STATE : ZIP:
E-MAIL:

☐ Postal Network
☐ E-mail Network
☐ E-mail and Postal
☐ Send the "Jerusalem: City of Peace" Educational Packet
☐ My tax deductible donation of $ ______ to CMEP is enclosed.

SHINE YOUR LIFE LIKE A LIGHT

To believe in Christ is to accept the call of being light in and for the world. To act as Christ is to face the darkness and bring into the open what is hidden. To live as Christ is to let the spirit of the gospel shine through you.

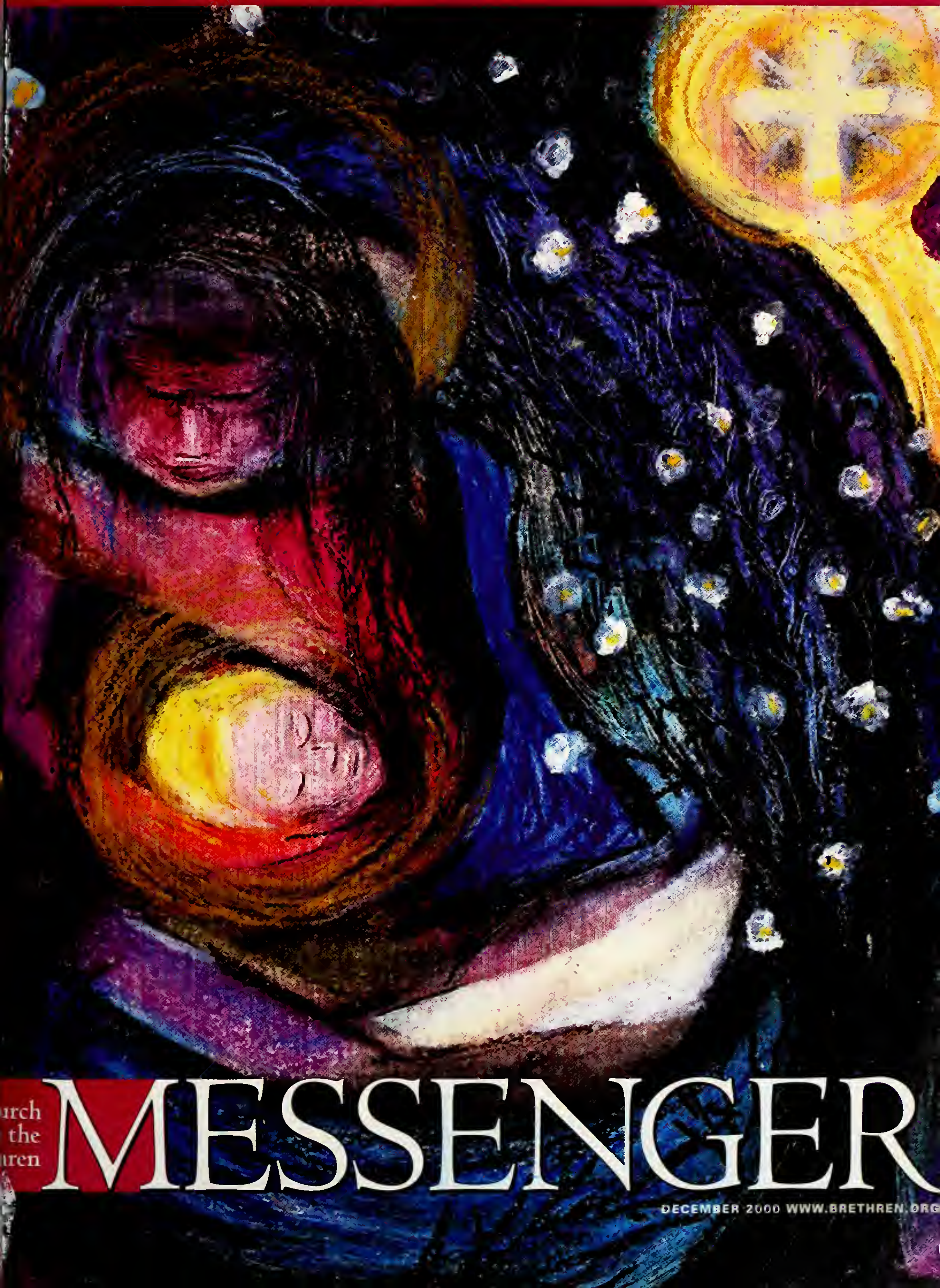
This Advent, heed the words of the apostle Peter: "Proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." Yield to the injunction of Paul: "Live as children of light." Take counsel from a contemporary song: "Shine your life like a light."

Mark the birth of Jesus with a Christmas gift for General Board Ministries, ministries that help believers rekindle and sustain the light within. Reflect the light that leads others more fully to Jesus, the Light of the world. Lift high the Light of life.

Christmas Offering

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN GENERAL BOARD

Ken Miller Heiman photo



urch
the
ren

MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2000 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG

What if someone in my family becomes sick

What if my daughte needs braces

We all face such important questions daily. Brethren FlexCare can help.

The benefit choices offered by Brethren Benefit Trust are convenient and easy to use. The basic package for employees of the church includes medical, life/accidental death and dismemberment and long-term disability insurance. Other optiona insurance and services are available.

One innovative component is the BBT version a Section 125 or "cafeteria plan." Brethren FlexCare allows people such as Susan and Carlos Fuentes, of North Manchester, Indiana, t save tax dollars by utilizing Susan's flexible spending account to pay for childcare.

Give us a call at (800) 746-1505. We'll help find answers to your important questions.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHR
INSURANCE PLA
1505 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120-1619 • www.bbtinsurance
800-746-1505 • 847-695-0200 • Fax 847-742-0135

DECEMBER 2000 VOL.149 NO.11 WWW.BRETHREN.ORG

hurch
f the
thren

MESSENGER

r: Fletcher Farrar Publisher: Wendy McFadden News: Walt Wiltschek Advertising: Russ Matteson Subscriptions: Verneda Cole Design: Cedar House Design

David Radcliff

Didier Ruf / WC

10 Bethlehem now

The site of Jesus' birth is now surrounded by violent clashes between Jews and Palestinians. Church of the Brethren writer Sara Speicher, member of the staff of the World Council of Churches, writes: "As we sing our carols this season, praising God for Jesus' birth and thinking of the Bethlehem where Jesus was born, let us also lift up in our thoughts and prayers the Bethlehem of today that so badly needs justice and peace, reconstruction and reconciliation."

16 Mary's faith

Mary said yes to God without having all her questions answered. She modeled for us the adventure of faith, the willingness to follow wherever God leads.

18 China revisited

Wang Bao Tien was 12 years old when his father, a Chinese Brethren, was executed for his faith in 1940. In a followup to his October MESSENGER cover story, "Remembering Brethren martyrs in China," Jeff Bach interviews a living link to those dark days of Brethren history.

20 Resistance as a discipline

Christians can witness to others by resisting the evils and temptations of modern life. Brethren Witness director David Radcliff names some of our devils: automation, accumulation, militarization, and over-saturation.

25 2000 annual index

A helpful listing of the authors, congregations, names of people, and subjects covered in MESSENGER this year.

DEPARTMENTS

2 From the Publisher
3 In Touch
6 News
28 Letters
31 Turning Points
32 Editorial

ONTHECOVER

The cover art is an oil pastel by Ruth Aukerman of Union Bridge, Md. It was inspired by an old German Christmas hymn, "Maria durch ein Dornwald ging" (Mary went through a woods of thorns). The lyrics say Mary went through a woods of thorns which had not bloomed in seven years. And because she carried Jesus under her heart, that woods began to bloom.

Aukerman writes: "To me this has always been a parable of how life's sorrow, pain, strife, election outcomes, etc., seem to be without bloom at all, unless we carry Christ in our hearts. Then the thorns will bear blooms, the pain will be transformed. For me there are still many, many thorns. But I so rejoice in every bloom that is given."

Aukerman, an art teacher, is taking membership classes at Union Bridge (Md.) Church of the Brethren. She writes that she continues to work on the rural homestead she shared with her late husband, Dale Aukerman, who died Sept. 4, 1999, "so that it can remain a place of peace and blessing for others."

FROM THE PUBLISHER

We always appreciate hearing from our readers. Particularly meaningful are the personal comments received when traveling throughout the denomination or visiting by phone. We also are grateful for the thoughtful feedback that comes by mail. The sampling in this month's Letters to the Editor gives an idea of the range of well-written responses that come to us.

A few readers express their support in very practical ways. For example, there's the $100 check that arrived after one subscriber read that MESSENGER had posted a deficit in 1999. Another heartwarming story developed this past summer when an 84-year-old subscriber in Pennsylvania called to say he wanted to pay for every non-subscriber in his congregation to receive MESSENGER. He was responding to the half-price offer for new subscribers that appeared in the June issue, and ended up giving away 90 one-year subscriptions at a personal cost of more than $600.

Why did he do it? He thinks it's essential that the folks in his faith community know who the Brethren are and what Brethren stand for. Reading MESSENGER "is the best way I know," he said.

Amazingly, he's not the only one who does this. We know of a number of congregations that experience a gift like this: One person cares enough about MESSENGER to give it to others.

This year's half-price offer is possible because of someone's generosity many years ago. That person's gift was a small endowment, whose income is to be used to provide MESSENGER for those who don't currently receive it. We haven't always been able to figure out how to use the income well, given the restrictions on the endowment's use. This year we decided we should use it to subsidize first-time subscribers, in the hope that they would be interested at the end of the year in renewing their subscriptions at full price. That way the endowment becomes an investment in the magazine's future. A few months into this campaign, we're seeing a promising increase in subscriptions.

That feels good on the eve of MESSENGER's 150th year. In fact, one of the best ways to observe the anniversary in 2001 is to expand our readership. Our most loyal readers tend to be those who grew up with the magazine and have read it for decades; we'd like to make that strong a connection with younger folks and those who are newcomers to the Church of the Brethren.

We're inviting our readers to make a special financial gift to MESSENGER in this anniversary year. The purpose is simple: We want to begin a solid, ongoing effort to grow our readership. We want to bring as many people as possible into the MESSENGER family, the place where thousands of us meet monthly to be bound together in God's mission and ministry. In other words, the gift is not really to MESSENGER; it is to all those who are embraced into the larger circle.

What will the next 150 years bring? We can scarcely imagine. But we do believe that the Church of the Brethren can navigate those years better if we work and worship—and read—together.

Wendy McFadden

How to reach us

MESSENGER
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Subscriptions:
vcole_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 847-742-5100
Fax: 847-742-6103

Display advertising:
rmatteson_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 800-323-8039
Fax: 847-742-1407

Editorial:
ffarrar_gb@brethren.org
Phone: 217-525-9083
Fax: 217-525-9269

Subscription rates:
$16.50 individual rate
$13.50 church group plan
$13.50 gift subscriptions

If you move, clip address label and send with new address to MESSENGER Subscriptions, at the above address. Allow at least five weeks for address change.

Connect electronically:
For a free subscription to *Newsline*, the Church of the Brethren e-mail news report, write cobnews@aol.com.

To view the official Church of the Brethren website, go to http://www. brethren.org.

MESSENGER is the official publication of the Churcl of the Brethren. Entered as periodical postage matte Aug. 20, 1918, under Act of Congress of Oct. 17 1917. Filing date, Nov. 1, 1984. Member of th Associated Church Press. Subscriber to Religio News Service & Ecumenical Press Service. Biblica quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are fron the New Revised Standard Version. MESSENGER i published 11 times a year by Brethren Press, Churc of the Brethren General Board. Periodical postag paid at Elgin, Ill., and at additional mailing office December 2000. Copyright 2000, Church of th Brethren General Board. ISSN 0026-0355. Postmaster: Send address changes to MESSENGE 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120.

Printed on recycled paper

IN TOUCH

Marathon runners from Highland Avenue church: *Chris Douglas and Nancy Garber (above), Dennis Kingery and Luke Croushorn (right).*

Brethren runners complete **Chicago Marathon**

The Chicago Marathon has become one of the world's largest marathons. This year a record-setting 33,000-plus runners participated in the event on Oct. 22. Chris Douglas, coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries; Luke Croushorn, BVS worker for Youth and Young Adult Workcamps; and Dennis Kingery, controller, were three General Board staff members among the thousands of participants.

Chris, Dennis, and Luke joined Nancy Garber (Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren member) in spending 15 weeks training for the Chicago Marathon. Running as many as 40 miles a week, these runners slowly built up their endurance and distance. For Chris and Luke, this was their first attempt at running the 26.2 miles of a full marathon. Nancy, a veteran of the Chicago Marathon, was able to provide helpful tips throughout the training.

On race day, the 33,000 runners gathered at Grant Park in downtown Chicago to begin their run at 7:30 a.m. Like most marathons, the runners are separated into groups according to their estimated finish time. This allows the elite runners to be at the front of the pack. The key to running a successful race is to find your correct pace and stick to it throughout the race. If you start out too fast, then you may become exhausted before completing the 26.2-mile race.

The General Board, meeting in Elgin at the time of the race, expressed support for the runners by singing the popular hymn "Guide my feet, while I run this race." The day was a success for the Brethren runners. Their goal was to finish, and that is what they were able to do.

Nebraska Brethren receives award in Greece

What do a former president of France, the composer of the film score for *Zorba the Greek*, and a Church of the Brethren member from Lincoln, Neb., have in common? They were all recipients of the Onassis Foundation Award.

John Doran, a member of the Antelope Park congregation and a soil scientist with the US Department of Agriculture, traveled to Greece in November to receive the International Prize for the Environment from the Onassis Foundation for his contributions to the development of soil health indicators and a test kit.

This prize recognizes individuals or organizations whose services in certain fields of human activities are characterized by dedication to human values. Along with the prestige and recognition of this award, John also will receive $250,000, most of which he plans to donate back to science to further discovery and humanitarian efforts.

Working with the Brethren Foundation, Inc., John plans to establish an endowment that will provide scholarships for students and scientific professionals. These scholarships will provide training and work experiences in areas dealing with world hunger, social justice, environmental stewardship, and sustainable development.

John says that being a member of the Church of the Brethren and the Soil and Water Conservation Society has helped him meet people with similar goals, as well as educate him about conserving the soil and private lands. "I have developed a sensitivity toward stewardship issues," he says. And it's this sensitivity that has motivated him to develop simple tools to help farmers assess the health of their lands.

John Doran

The award-winning field-test kit and indicators of soil health are invaluable to the farmers who use it.

—Jim Replogle

Washington City tours neighborhood for ideas

As part of the Congregational Life Team's transformational process with the Washington City Church of the Brethren, the congregation was invited to design and carry out both a walking and a driving tour of the Capitol Hill neighborhood in which the church is located.

On Sunday, Sept. 24, under the direction of the Strategic Planning Team Coordinator, Heather Nolen, the group first toured the church building in which the soup kitchen, a nursery school, the Washington Office, and other leased spaces are housed. Notes were made on rooms and spaces needing repair and renovation. The group then divided into smaller groups of 3-5 persons and each was assigned a different area of the Capitol Hill neighborhood to make observations and consider needs of the church's most immediate neighbors.

Upon conclusion of the tour, the group met at the church for a time of debriefing and discernment. From that experience, many new ideas for vision and mission were discussed, and the excitement for new ministry in a regenerated neighborhood grew.

The Washington City Church of the Brethren is in the process of a nine-month transformational process with Area 1 Congregational Life Team staff. This is one of 11 such congregations across the five districts of Area 1 involved in an in-depth process of self-evaluation for church growth and renewal. Jan Kensinger, CLT Coordinator, and Stan Dueck, CLT staff for Area 1 are designing, coaching, and serving as consultants in these projects.

Jenny Dormois of Live Oak *serving peach cobbler and ice cream.*

Everything is peachy at **Live Oak**

When the Live Oak (Calif.) Church of the Brethren sponsored a booth at the first annual Live Oak Peach Festival, it was with two things in mind: to show their witness to the community and to raise money for their youth to attend the National Youth Conference in 2002. They were successful on both counts.

The hot weather did nothing to dissuade the throngs of people strolling past the Church of the Brethren booth that Saturday. Volunteers dipped up helpings of homemade peach cobbler and vanilla ice cream to the delight of hungry festivalgoers. Peach jam, peach bread and muffins, peach crisp, and quarts of canned peaches were all available for sale, made by church members.

In addition to the "peach" booth, the church purchased extra booth space that was then furnished with tables and chairs. Community members were encouraged to have a seat in the shade and drink some ice cold peach tea.—**Anne E. Palmer**

Urban ministers— *Duane Grady, the General Board's liaison to the Cross-Cultural Ministry Team, with Sherman Hicks, pastor of First Trinity Lutheran Church, Washington, D.C.*

Virlina Brethren seek God's call in urban areas

"Seeking the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2, 3): Christians in an Urban World" was the theme for an urban ministry event held Oct. 13-14 in Roanoke, Va. It was co-sponsored by Virlina District and Congregational Life Team Area 3. The Rev. Dr. Sherman Hicks, pastor of First Trinity Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C., and former bishop of the Chicago Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, was the guest preacher and keynote speaker. The Friday evening worship, held at Central Church of the Brethren, focused on the call to be representatives of God's people in the midst of the city. An offering was taken for the General Board's Cross-Cultural

Ministry Team.

On Saturday, 44 participants representing 11 congregations gathered at Williamson Road Church of the Brethren for worship and a presentation by Hicks. David R. Miller (First Church of the Brethren), David Minnich (Shalom Fellowship, Concord, N.C.), and Asha Solanky (West Richmond Church of the Brethren) were the panelists who responded to the presentation and the question, "What does it mean to be in urban ministry in the Virlina district?"

Three workshops were offered that day: A Case Study of Urban Ministry in Roanoke (Johnny Stone, pastor of Hill Street Baptist), Exploring Diversity in *Hymnal: A Worship Book* (Julie M. Hostetter, Area 3 CLT Coordinator), and Blending Boundaries: Connections Between Urban/Suburban/Small Town/Rural Congregations (Duane Grady, Area 2 CLT staff).

On Sunday morning, Duane spoke with the youth and adult Sunday school classes at First Church. He shared from his own experience as an urban pastor and listened as those present told him about their ongoing worship, educational, and fellowship opportunities with Williams Memorial Baptist Church (an African-American congregation) and a nearby elementary school.

Julie Hostetter staffed a planning committee of five pastors from Virlina district: Tom Bryant, Michael Hostetter, David R. Miller (Roanoke), Jan Kulp Long (Blacksburg), and David W. Miller (Richmond). It is hoped that this was the beginning of ongoing dialog and support as congregations seek to be faithful to God's call to ministry and mission in urban settings.

A coffee break in the name of Christ

In 1961, Russell Kiester, pastor of the Church of the Brethren in Sabetha, Kan., challenged the Men's Fellowship of the church to provide a rest stop for Labor Day weekend travelers at the "Four Mile Corner" rest stop at the junction of highways 75 and 36 south of Sabetha. Forty years later his challenge has grown and continues to save the lives of weary travelers by offering coffee, tea, juice, cookies, and fellowship in the name of Christ.

The service has now grown to being offered 24 hours a day. The Methodist Church in Sabetha now helps with the project, which also draws volunteers from surrounding communities. This year 984 travelers signed the guest register—**Cheryl Mishler**

Dupont Church of the Brethren

Dupont youth reach out to Tijuana

In late June the youth group of the Dupont, Ohio, congregation ventured to Los Angeles and Tijuana, Mexico. They were hosted by Gilbert Romero, pastor of the Bella Vista Church of the Brethren, Los Angeles. Romero had suggested the trip a year before when he led a revival at the Dupont church.

The youth and chaperones flew to Los Angeles, spent the night at the Bella Vista church, then rode in vans to Tijuana. Work projects there included completion of a two-stall community shower, building a small home for a family, helping to dig a sewer ditch, and helping at a day care center. They also visited a landfill, where many people survive by sorting through garbage. At the landfill they passed out Christian tracts, along with food, water, and clothing.

BRETHRENSPEAK

I want to see more American Christians reading their Bibles and spending time in prayer.... There are a lot of opportunities here, but people are not talking about their faith.

Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria president **Toma Ragnjiya**, *at the October General Board meetings.*

General Board examines mission, ethnicity

Devotions throughout the fall meetings of the Church of the Brethren General Board, held Oct. 19-24 in Elgin, Ill., built on the board's vision statement, "Of God, for God, with God," and focused on aspects of God's presence.

Board chair Mary Jo Flory-Steury, in opening the meetings of the full board on Saturday, read from Ephesians 2 as written in *The Message*: "Now God has us where God wants us. ... All we do is trust God enough to let God do it."

With hymns and prayers built on the Worshipful-Work model of conducting church business, the board moved forward with that trust to tackle its agenda over the next three and a half days. The agenda held a long list of reports and other items, but much of the work of this meeting focused on celebrating new and ongoing ministries and planning for possible future endeavors.

The board adopted a 2001 budget of nearly $9.3 million—about $5.7 million of that for "general programs." The vote followed a detailed report by finance and funding staff that showed a healthy financial picture for the year, with giving to most funds up from a year earlier. The lone exception is the Emergency Disaster Fund, which has had fewer critical projects to fund this year than in 1999.

Board members also voted to enter into a formal affiliation agreement with Compañeros en Ministerio/Misión, which "seeks to foster cross-cultural relationships and understanding between differing ethnic congregations" and primarily works in the Tijuana, Mexico, area. The request came through the board's Mission and Ministries Planning Council, and a committee worked at exploring the possibilities over the past year. Ongoing conversation and collaboration will occur via a "consulting committee" that will meet at least annually.

The board adopted a "process for making the General Board more ethnically diverse," following discussions on the topic at the March meetings. The process recommends four points: suggesting ethnically diverse candidates for the board to the Annual Conference nominating process, inviting the Cross-Cultural Ministries Team to send a representative to General Board meetings as a consultant, keeping an awareness of the need for ethnically diverse leadership before the entire denomination, and holding educational and training workshops on the subject for General Board members and staff.

Items handled with an eye to the future included a preliminary proposal for a new church start in Brazil, a New Church Development Advisory Commit-

Walt Wiltschek

General Board executive director Judy Mills Reimer *greets EYN president Toma Ragnjiya following his remarks to the General Board.*

R. Jan Thompson

Clarifying a point, *General Board member Jan Thompson, of Mesa, Ariz., gets involved in the board's deliberations.*

tee proposal for aiding new church planting, a new document on General Board financial policies and procedures, and new bylaws for the board. Presenters gathered input and suggestions from board members and staff on all four items and will bring them back for action at the March 2001 meetings in New Windsor, Md.

Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) president Toma Ragnjiya and his wife, Kwanye, visited part of the meetings. The Rev. Toma addressed the board one afternoon, sharing much gratitude for Brethren work in Nigeria and sharing the challenges and blessings that have come through Christian-Muslim conflict in his country. He also urged US Brethren to give attention to prayer and evangelism.

Other activities during the weekend included two worship services and visits to area Church of the Brethren congregations, a banquet celebrating General Board ministries, a time of recognition for General Board employees, a prayer room and several displays, sharing with numerous visitors, and forums on evangelism and funding.

ABC board meetings focus on finances

Fund-raising and finances dominated the fall agenda for the Association of Brethren Caregivers board, which met Sept. 29-Oct. 1. The agency projected a $41,000 deficit for 2000, prompting a unanimous vote for board members to become involved in personal fund-raising to attempt to balance the budget.

The board also learned that ABC's original three-year financial transition plan, following the agency's separation from the General Board in January 1998, was too optimistic and is likely to take at least five years. The plan permitted ABC to draw on reserves to support its ministries for those first three years, expecting outside funding to grow during that time to the point it would fulfill the budget. Individual and congregational giving has grown, but not to the levels expected.

The board affirmed an executive committee commitment to establish a long-term planning process to insure ABC's viability and received a budget proposal for 2001 subject to revisions by ABC executive director Steve Mason before the end of the year. It authorized the finance and executive committees to act on those revisions to determine the final amount of the budget.

The meetings were extended by a day to include a board development session led by John Cassel of Lombard, Ill. Cassel, a member of Chicago First Church of the Brethren, provides board development through the Illinois Association of School Boards. The session focused on distinguishing board and staff roles in serving constituents. Cassel also discussed the importance of an overarching vision for an organization's continued health and growth.

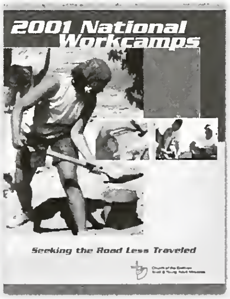
The board approved John Wenger, a member of Anderson (Ind.) Church of the Brethren, to fill an unexpired term on the board as a representative elected by the ministry areas and appointed retired physician Joseph Schechter, a member of the La Verne (Calif.) church, to a second term.

YOUTHBEAT

A new, full-color brochure gives details on 20 Church of the Brethren summer workcamps that will be offered in 2001 by the General Board's Youth/Young Adult Ministries office.

Planned are five junior high workcamps, 13 senior high workcamps, one combined junior-senior high workcamp in Bayview, Va., and a young adult workcamp to Taizé, France.

Junior high workcamps are slated for Harrisburg, Pa.; Indianapolis; New Windsor, Md.; Lake Geneva, Wis.; and Washington, D.C. Senior high sites are Mendenhall, Miss. (co-sponsored with Brethren Revival Fellowship); Americus, Ga.; Harlingen, Tex.; Castañer, P.R.; Pine Ridge, S.D.; Chicago; Keyser, W.Va.; Myrtle Point, Ore.; Baltimore; Crossnore, N.C.; St. Croix, US Virgin Islands; and the Dominican Republic, plus the National Youth Spiritual Growth Camp July 29-Aug. 4 at Camp Mack in Milford, Ind.



Workcamp registrations are being accepted beginning Dec. 1 at 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120. For copies of the workcamps brochure or more information, call the Youth/Young Adult office at 800 323-8039 or visit the website at www.brethren.org/genbd/yya.

Amy He

Meeting with a delegation from the Church of North India. *Pictured from left: Merv Keeney, director of General Board Global Mission Partnerships; Bob Gross of Ministry of Reconciliation; former India missionary Wer dell Flory; General Board chair Mary Jo Flory-Steury; Christy Waltersdorff, pastor of York Center Church of the Brethren; Dr. V.S. Lall, general secretar of CNI; Most Rev. Vinod Peter, moderator of CNI; Ernie Thakor, member of Naperville (Ill.) Church of the Brethren; Rt. Rev. V.M. Malaviya, CNI bishop o Gujarat State; General Board executive director Judy Mills Reimer.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 10 Christmas offering emphasis

2001

Jan. 13-Feb. 12 Global Mission Partnerships' Nigeria workcamp

Jan. 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Jan. 21-Feb. 9 Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 242, Orlando, Fla.

Feb. 1-12 Association of Brethren Caregivers' Older Adult workcamp to Puerto Rico

OEPA board celebrates, sets focus for future

The On Earth Peace board of directors and staff met at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., Oct. 6-7. Following a time of singing hymns and sharing, the meeting included the following:

- **Welcoming** Barb Sayler and Bob Gross as co-executive directors of the agency and introducing new board members Ken Frantz (Fleming, Colo.), Ken Edwards (Jonesborough, Tenn.), and Debbie Roberts (La Verne, Calif.).
- **Hearing the results** of the "visioning" work of the strategic planning committee, which presented a document that the board accepted. The four focus areas include Peacemaker Formation, Peace Witness, Conflict Transformation, and Organizational Health. Two-, five- and ten-year goals were identified.
- **Sharing good news** from the board's advancement committee, which met its challenge to contribute $50,000 to the general fund. The accomplishment was celebrated at the conclusion of Friday's schedule with an ice cream party. It was also announced that a matching gift will be made available this year to On Earth Peace when churches or individuals make new or increased gifts over the past year. In addition, an anonymous donor will give $100,000 to be added to the endowment to help secure and enhance the future of On Earth Peace.
- **Approving** the 2000-2001 budget, a balanced one that shows $375,000 in income and expenses for the coming year.
- **Hearing reports** from staff about their work, including the division of tasks in the new co-executive director structure and a progress report on the closing of The Peace Place store and the startup of the Peace Basket program, which includes peace resources to be loaned out to congregations.

The Peace Retreat theme for this year is "A Peace Tapestry," using Romans 12 as the text. The Ministry of Reconciliation will continue to offer Matthew 18 workshops for congregations and training for practitioners.

- **Accepting several challenges** for the coming year, including lifting up the mission and work of On Earth Peace by visiting congregations in their districts, challenging individuals to support the agency, and continuing personal financial support.

Meeting with CNI brings "positive" direction

Generally positive feelings and a cooperative atmosphere characterized a meeting between a delegation of Church of North India leaders and representatives of the Church of the Brethren General Board Oct. 9-11.

The two groups met to discuss the "separated" Brethren in India—congregations that were started by Brethren mission in India during the 1900s, joined CNI in 1970, then seceded in 1978. The congregations have sought recognition by the Church of the Brethren since then and the General Board recently has been exploring the issue.

Representing CNI were Dr. V.S. Lall, general secretary; the Most Rev. Vinod Peter, moderator; and the Rt. Rev. V.M. Malaviya, bisho of Gujarat State. General Board representatives included executive director Judy Mills Reimer, board chair Mary Jo Flory-Steury Global Mission Partnerships dire tor Merv Keeney, and members o a delegation that traveled to Indi this past spring and talked with the churches seeking recognition Bob Gross of Ministry of Reconci iation served as facilitator.

"It was a much-needed renewal of the relationship," Keeney says. "We worked hard at understanding the different issues that exist in the relationship, identifying areas where w have common understanding and where we don't."

It was a marked difference in tone from the last meeting between the two parties, held in Toronto, Canada, in January. Keeney had characterized relatio at that time as "strained." Now, while numerous areas of disagre ment still exist, Keeney said he feels optimism. Another visit of the General Board delegation to India is scheduled for January, a CNI leaders expressed a desire t talk further during that visit.

WORLDWATCH

1. **Cuba.** A three-member delegation of Cuban Council of Churches officials paid a visit to the General Offices in Elgin, Ill., in October. The group expressed appreciation for all the denomination's involvement and ecumenical support in their nation, and especially for beef chunks sent through a meat canning project and other aid.

2. **Oklahoma.** An Emergency Disaster Fund grant sent $5,000 to support a relief effort for victims of wildfires in Logan County, where at least 40 homes were destroyed. Funds went toward victims' immediate and long-term needs as well as feed for livestock.

3. **Vieques, Puerto Rico.** Protests over US Navy presence and testing on this small island have continued even after an encampment was driven out by US forces in May. Cliff Kindy of the Manchester Church of the Brethren (North Manchester, Ind.) was arrested after participating with Christian Peacemaker Teams in a civil disobedience activity Oct. 1 and was held for more than a week.

4. **Colombia.** Mennonite peace activist Ricardo Esquivia Ballestas met with several staff members at the General Offices in October to urge an end to US military support of the "drug wars" in his country, which he said is actually escalating the problem. He said that cooperation between the churches of North America and South America is needed to work for an end to the violence.

5. **Texas.** The work of the Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries in Los Fresnos received a boost with an allocation of $12,000 from the General Board's Emergency Disaster Fund. The organization gives assistance to displaced persons and immigrants near the Mexican border. About $2,000 of the grant will be used to ship 8,400 pounds of canned chicken to the ministry's food pantry.

6. **Florida.** A Disaster Child Care team of nine volunteers was dispatched to the southern part of the state to assist in the aftermath of severe flooding in the Miami and Ft. Lauderdale areas. Gloria Cooper of the United Methodist Church served as project manager for the team, which included seven Brethren.

7. **Vanceboro, N.C.** A parade and other events in this eastern North Carolina town on Oct. 7 thanked the many volunteers who worked to bring recovery from the devastation of 1999's Hurricane Floyd. Those volunteers included many Brethren, and several Emergency Response/Service Ministries staff members and others who helped participated in the festivities.

8. **Indonesia.** More deaths have resulted with a resurgence of Christian-Muslim violence in some provinces of the Southeast Asian nation, according to Religion News Service. "Christians and Muslims have been fighting one another in the Maluku provinces since January of last year," the report said. "Some 4,000 people on both sides have been killed since then."

9. **Sudan.** Bombing runs on southern Sudan by the African nation's northern government have continued, according to reports from several international news services. Recent reports included bombings of a refugee camp, a school, and homes. US President Bill Clinton criticized the attacks, saying, "I am deeply concerned by reports that the government of Sudan is bombing innocent civilians in the southern part of the country. Such egregious abuses have become commonplace in Sudan's ongoing civil war."

rethren delegation o visit **Sudan**

Church of the Brethren dele- ation will be visiting Sudan in id-February. The group, spon- ored by the Global Mission artnerships and Brethren Witness offices, will be hosted by the New Sudan Council of Churches. The purpose of the visit will be to show solidarity with people of the war-torn southern part of the east African country, to learn about ministries offered by the NSCC, and to witness the overall situation in Sudan.

Brethren Witness director David Radcliff will serve as leader of the delegation, with Mark Sloan of the NSCC, serving through the Global Mission Partnerships office, providing on-the-ground coordination.

Cost for the February 10-22 trip will be $1600, which includes General Board financial support for in-country costs. Contact either of the above offices for more infomation.

O TROUBLED TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

PEACE NEEDS JUSTICE IN A DIVIDED HOLY LAND

by Sara Speicher

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."—Luke 2:15

I stood in the cave that has been revered for centuries as the place where Jesus was born, rather embarrassed that the study group I was with wanted to sing "Away in a Manger" and "O Little Town of Bethlehem" as streams of silent pilgrims shuffled through. Our visit this July happened to be timed with mainly Russian- and Greek-speaking groups, who took as many moments as they could to touch or to kiss the marble and metal-encased spot. I took a photo. I wasn't so concerned about whether this was or was not the actual site of Jesus's birth; having geographical proof isn't necessary to my belief that the birth took place. But as I listened to the sweet melodies of these carols we sing so often during this season of Jesus' birth, I could not stop thinking of the current, tragic, geographical reality facing this little town of Bethlehem.

A drive to Bethlehem from Jerusalem is a drive through Occupied Territory. Maps usually have an asterisk, or fine print at the bottom that says, "West Bank is Israeli-occupied with current status subject to the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement—permanent status to be determined through further negotiation." Guarded checkpoints identify these "impermanent" boundaries. At the checkpoints, our tourist company van with Israeli plates doesn't even slow down. But we notice a long line of cars with Palestinian plates trying to get into Jerusalem, with the guards carefully looking at papers. Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip cannot enter the holy city of Jerusalem without special, and difficult to get, permits.

The Israeli human rights lawyer who was leading this portion of the study tour noted that in all international law, Occupied Territory means that until the status is resolved nothing can be permanently changed, nothing can be developed. She said this as we looked at the Har Homa settlement, nearing completion. No cluster of shacks, this, but a huge, modern, apartment complex perched on Mount Abu Ghmein between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Nearby is a sign that she translates from the Hebrew: "Encouragement 99—a framework of economic development" from the Ministry of Industry and Trade with the Israeli government seal.

Throughout our trip we see signs advertising

Ruf / WCC

new developments, four-, five-, and six-room apartments with beautiful views and modern conveniences. This is a jarring picture of growing pockets of suburbia, even though the Israeli government years ago promised to stop settlement activity until negotiations were completed. Our van is traveling on well-built bypass roads, and we see more under construction. These highways link Jerusalem to the settlements. There are no exits—and no signs—to Palestinian villages from these roads, although they cut through Palestinian orchards, land, and homes. We pass through a tunnel cut directly under a Palestinian village. It is all safe, sterile, and tragic.

On this study tour, I traveled with 14 young adults from the US. The tour and exposure visit sponsored by the World Council of Churches focused on the "Question of Jerusalem," and we met with Christian, Muslim, and Jewish academics, lawyers, religious leaders, activists. We toured the Old City and saw places I doubt most pilgrims see unless they are really lost. We toured some of the settlement construction in the West Bank; I don't think the construction workers at Har Homa often get visits from photo-taking tourists.

These construction workers are mainly Palestinian. Our guide explains that with the restriction of movement for Palestinians into Israel and around the West Bank, Palestinian economic activity has been crippled. Often, then, the only jobs they can get are with Israeli development companies.

The lawyer gave as an example the situation of one of her clients, a successful Palestinian businessman in the West Bank who owned a profitable bus company. When the general closure was implemented in 1993, he could no longer operate his buses across the border into Israel, and, without that access, he went bankrupt. He had recently built a house, but he had built it without a building permit, as cost and regulations make it virtually impossible for any Palestinian to get a permit. He was then informed that his house would be demolished, without compensation, to build a bypass road between Jerusalem and one of the settlements. He has four young children to support. And now, the only work he can find is on the construction of the bypass road that caused his house to be demolished.

Two of the study group members could not help but compare their own Native American history with the forced separation and widely different conditions they saw between two peoples on the same land. Others made references to apartheid-like conditions. The Israeli

The issues that are being fought over are not ones easily solved by moving lines on a map. They are issues of life and death, identity and faith: land, water, boundaries, freedom of movement, the right to worship, protection of holy sites, sovereignty, culture, refugees, settlements, history, future.

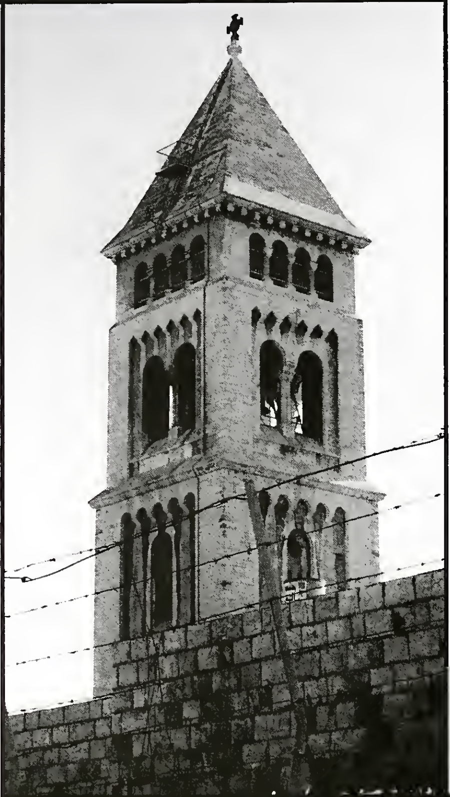
lawyer said, "We have substituted 'Jews and Arabs' for whites and blacks."

The checkpoints, restriction of movement, house demolitions, settlements, and bypass roads provided a different, wider picture than I had seen and understood before from the US media. I am accustomed to seeing bombs and stones. Structural violence, I guess, doesn't make good TV.

As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."—Luke 19:41-42

It is October and I am watching on television Israeli gunships bombing Ramallah after the brutal murder of two Israeli soldiers by a Palestinian mob. Words on both sides are filled with hate and anguish. The grim tally of death goes higher—almost a hundred dead in the first two weeks of October; all but seven are Palestinian. International leaders try desperately to stop the two sides from being driven further apart than the bloodshed has already made them.

I know people in Ramallah. I am picturing Jean Zaru, a Quaker and a Palestinian, who, when she met with us in July, spoke of how her pacifism has been tested in the face of years of



Sara Speicher/WCC

Israeli Jews often perceive Christians as a double majority—part of the large Arab world and the larger Christian population. Muslims connect local Christians with the powerful Christian west and rarely view them as an "imperiled minority."

CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND

Worldwide media attention often focuses on the conflict between two peoples, Israelis and Palestinians, and two majority religions, Judaism and Islam. Even Christians in other regions sometimes forget that there is a small but significant local Christian presence in Jerusalem and the surrounding region that must deal with a unique double-minority situation.

Palestinian Christians now make up only about two percent of the population in Jerusalem, and three percent in the Occupied Territories. Approximately 59 percent are from the Orthodox traditions, 36 percent are Catholics, and five percent are Protestants.

The 1999 *Israel Yearbook and Almanac* describes their precarious position by noting that, "as Arab Christians they are a double minority: Arabs in the midst of the majority Jewish population of Israel, Christians within Israel's dominantly Muslim Arab society." In addition to differences in size and resources within the Christian community, "those who emphasize their Palestinian identity find themselves in an inferior position vis-à-vis the Israelis."

To complicate matters still further, Israeli Jews often perceive Christians as a double majority—part of the large Arab world and the larger Christian population. Muslims connect local Christians with the powerful Christian west and rarely view them as an "imperiled minority."

Historically, though, Christians and Muslims have lived side by side for centuries in the region. "Palestinians are Christians and Muslims, but one people," says Father Maroum Laham, rector of the Latin Patriarchate (Roman Catholic) Seminary in Jerusalem.

The long conflict, including the restriction of movement and residency rights, has caused a steady decline in the numbers of local Christians in Jerusalem. Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan, based in Jerusalem, notes that there are now just 5,000 local Christians in the city. He fears that "if you lose the local churches, you lose Christianity in Jerusalem."

Restrictions on travel: *In 1993, the Israeli government instituted especially restrictive security policies that prevent Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip from freely entering Jerusalem, or freely moving between the south and north West Bank.*

Ruth Allen

repression. "I rage for justice," she said, "but I refuse to destroy."

Jean and many others—Palestinian and Israeli—have worked for years in interreligious dialog, mediation, conflict prevention, personal connections. Now the fragile links they have forged are being destroyed by bullets and bombs and mobs and hate and ultimatums. The violence in Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Hebron, and throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the retaliatory violence against Israeli Arabs in Nazareth, surprises few who have followed the situation over the years. The peace talks have failed to change the situation for Palestinians; indeed, they have only seen continued disregard for agreements by the Israeli government. In an analysis in the *New York Times* on Oct. 15 comes this admission from US officials involved in the negotiations: "But most fundamental, a senior official said, the administration had failed in the last several years to grasp the depth of resentment among the Palestinian population. The peace efforts during Mr. Clinton's tenure forged an understanding among Israeli and Palestinian elites but not among the people, one official said with rare candor."

The issues that are being fought over are not ones easily solved by moving lines on a map. They are issues of life and death, identity and faith: land, water, boundaries, freedom of movement, the right to worship, protection of holy sites, sovereignty, culture, refugees, settlements, history, future. Even the people affected are complex, a mixture of two peoples—Israeli and Palestinian—and three religions—Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Any solutions need to take into account all these dynamics. And, in the center of the complex conflict, is the city of Jerusalem.

Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.—Psa. 122:2-3

Jerusalem is one of the oldest cities in the world. It is the site of the Western (Wailing) Wall, the last remnant of the second Jewish Temple, the place where Abraham faithfully prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac. For Christians, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is the site of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, while Jerusalem is the place where the church itself began. The Al-Aqsa Mosque is the third-holiest sanctuary of Islam, and the life of the Prophet Mohammed is linked to Jerusalem. The city holds enormous religious significance for millions of Jews, Christians, and Muslims throughout the world. For centuries, it has been a destination of pilgrims as well as a target for empires, crusaders, and conquerors.

Since the 19th century, Jerusalem has been the focus of conflicting claims by Jews and Palestinians. These claims have complex political, territorial, and religious dimensions, since, according to a United Nations document, "both peoples consider the city the embodiment of their national essence and right to self-determination."

For Jerusalem City Council member Anat Hoffman, the city's practical problems are magnified by its history and religious significance. "If we thought practically," she said,

The city holds enormous religious significance for millions of Jews, Christians, and Muslims throughout the world. For centuries, it has been a destinatior of pilgrims as wel as a target for empires, crusaders, and conquerors.

As people of faith, we are called to stand in solidarity with the oppressed and wounded. As citizens of a government taking a major role in the negotiating process, we have the responsibility to advocate for justice.

Sara Speicher/ WCC

Jean Zaru, a Quaker living in Ramallah, West Bank, *spoke of her struggle of being a pacifist in a "violent structure"-- "I do rage for justice, but I refuse to destroy."*

"we could solve anything. But Jerusalem is not just a city, it is a metaphor."

Many proposals for Jerusalem's future have been put forward since 1947, from giving the city special international status to divided sovereignty and control. "Jerusalem should remain a city of God and accessible to all people," says Michel Sabbah, Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (Roman Catholic Church). "It should not be governed like any other city in the world."

At the July 2000 Camp David meeting, the status of Jerusalem was discussed for the first time in the history of the peace talks and, while no agreement was reached, there came some hope from the fact that the discussion occurred and openings were made for sharing of the city and international governance. Such hope, and move toward compromise, has been shattered by recent violence that was sparked in the Old City itself.

For thousands of years, Jerusalem has been the center of faith for so many. Many have also tried to control the city. Perhaps that no one has yet succeeded is the most important lesson.

"History is our teacher," says a Christian leader in Jerusalem. "Whenever Christians or other religions have tried to claim ownership

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. **Pray** for the people of the region, for the Israeli and Palestinian leaders, and the international community that they will have the courage and political will to forge a just and lasting agreement. Pray for the grassroots peace builders trying to reconstruct fragile links of understanding and reconciliation.

2. **Commit** yourself to getting better informed about the situation through multiple sources of information. Here are a few possible websites:
   –Churches for Middle East Peace
   www.cmep.org
   –Christian Peacemaker Team in Hebron
   www.prairienet.org/cpt/hebron.html
   –American Friends Service Committee
   www.afsc.org/ispal/
   –World Council of Churches
   www.wcc-coe.org/wcc/what/international/jerusalem.html
   –The United Nations webpage on the Question of Palestine
   www.un.org/Depts/dpa/qpal/
   –B'tselem—The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories
   www.btselem.org
   –Land and Water Establishment
   www.lawsociety.org
   –The Applied Research Institute in Jerusalem
   www.arij.org/
   –Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs
   www.passia.org
   –Jerusalem Centre for Women
   www.j-c-w.org
   –Ha'aretz daily newspaper
   www.haaretzdaily.com/htmls/1_1.asp

3. **Go** on a different kind of "Holy Land" tour—one in which you take the time to learn about the realities of the local people. Connect with local Christians. Resources for such visits are the Ecumenical Outreach Program of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the United Methodist Church (General Board of Global Ministries) based in Jerusalem.

4. **Be** an advocate for justice and peace in the Middle East through your church and community, and with the US government.

Sandra Olewine / WCC

Members of the WCC-sponsored study seminar *held in July gained firsthand knowledge about the different elements in the final status negotiations, especially the question of Jerusalem. Sara Speicher is standing in the back row, second from right.*

over Jerusalem, they were rejected. It is clear that Jerusalem cannot be long under one faith or one people."

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls, And security within your towers."—Psa. 122: 6-7

International negotiations for Middle East peace have been held for decades. There is a sense now on both sides that agreements made so far are no longer valid. How far back, now, do negotiators need to go? As Israeli and Palestinian leaders and international mediators try to pick up the pieces, it is clear that more efforts from ordinary citizens worldwide—not just Israelis and Palestinians—are needed to work for real justice and a true peace.

I am reading another daily bulletin from the Christian Peacemaker Team in Hebron, which has accompanied the community there as a witness for peace (see Messenger, July 2000). In the midst of escalating violence, the six team members share reports of tension and violence from both sides and do what they can to prevent conflict, protect rights, document incidents, and keep individuals talking to each other. Perhaps their sharing of stories by e-mail is the most important part of their witness—through them we can be present in this holy and divided land. We can meet individuals like Nabil, who tells the CPTers that his uncle was critically injured when, as they were bringing bread back to the family, they were shot at from the Beit Haggai settlement. As CPTer Bob Holmes shares, "Nabil took us to the blood-soaked ground on a path below the settlement. An army jeep patrolling the adjacent bypass road stopped as we were leaving. When the soldiers stepped out with their rifles, Nabil took my hand and clamped my elbow inside his. He was shaking and I shared his fear as we walked the long hundred meters up and over the hill. He kept tight hold until we reached his house once again."

As the news media share stories of hate and violence of mobs and the political war of words, we also need to hear stories of the fear, struggles, and pain of individual people who must continue, day by day, to live and work and worship. This gives us another, closer part of the picture. And in this conflict we need to commit ourselves to seeing as many facets as possible. As people of faith, we are called to stand in solidarity with the oppressed and wounded. As citizens of a government taking a major role in the negotiating process, we have the responsibility to advocate for justice.

As we sing our carols this season, praising God for Jesus' birth and thinking of the Bethlehem where Jesus was born, let us also lift up in our thoughts and prayers the Bethlehem of today that so badly needs justice and peace, reconstruction and reconciliation. Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Jericho, Nazareth, Galilee—millions of believers have come to this region to pray over stones, the remnants of holy sites. Believers need also to pray for the land's "living stones"—its people. The need is to pray for justice and peace and for an answer that will make it a holy land indeed.

As we sing our carols this season, praising God for Jesus' birth and thinkin of the Bethlehem where Jesus was born, let us also lift up in our thoughts and prayers the Bethlehem of today that so badly needs justice and peace

For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, Peace be within you."
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God
I will seek your good.—Psa. 122: 8-9

Sara Speicher is a member of the Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren, Elgin, Ill. She accompanied the July study seminar on the Question of Jerusalem as communication officer for the World Council of Churches. She currently lives in Geneva, Switzerland.

Here am I

A MEDITATION ON MARY'S

> Mary was just a young girl in a small village, already engaged to be married. She no doubt anticipated a happy but ordinary life as the wife of a carpenter. But when the angel Gabriel appeared to her and spoke of another kind of future, she said, "Yes."

by James Benedict

Luke 1:26-38

My great Aunt Pearl, who died a few years back at the age of 103, was never shy and retiring. She was one of those people who get even spunkier as the years go by. Once my parents were planning a trip to Texas. They stopped in to visit Aunt Pearl, who was probably about 95 at the time, and said half-jokingly, "Hey, do you want to go along?" Quick as a shot, she replied, "You bet!" and she was serious. "When are you leaving?" she asked. What could my parents say? They told her they were planning to leave at the end of the week. Aunt Pearl assured them, "I'll have my suitcase packed." And she did!

I've always admired those who are adventurous, and from my study of scripture, I'm convinced that there is a strong connection between adventurousness and faith. Luke's account of Jesus' birth brings this out in many ways, but especially in the story of Mary. Mary was just a young girl in a small village, already engaged to be married. She no doubt anticipated a happy but ordinary life as the wife of a carpenter. But when the angel Gabriel appeared to her and spoke of another kind of future, she said, "Yes."

As it turns out, this simple girl from a small town had an adventurous spirit. Notice that she said "yes" to the journey with very little information about the itinerary. She volunteered to serve even though she didn't have very much information about what her service would require of her. She didn't even understand how it could happen. Still, she said yes.

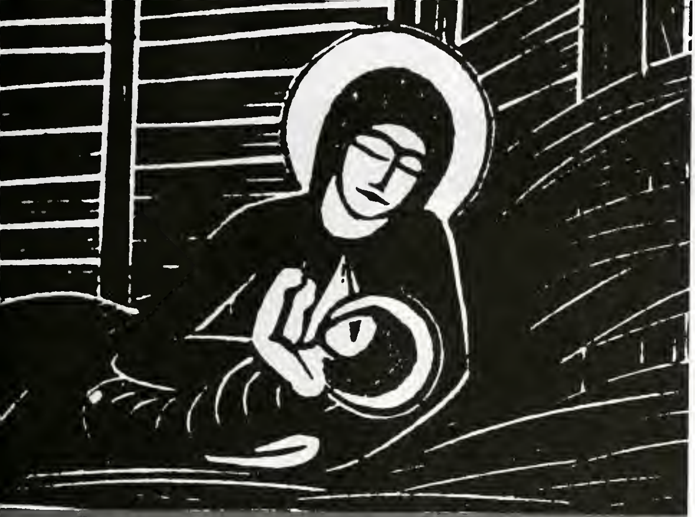
Mary is presented as a model of faith and faithfulness. But we read too much into the text if we suppose that this means she had no questions or doubts. In fact, her first words in response to the angel's announcement are, "How can this be?" Mary isn't one of those passive, easily put-upon types. If something doesn't make sense to her she says, "This doesn't make sense!" If she has a question, she isn't too timid to ask it. So she asks: "How can this be?"

And we needn't suppose that the answer she was given put her mind completely at rest. Listen again: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called the Son of God." That answer may make perfect sense to us, from a post-resurrection perspective, because we know the rest of the story. But it had to sound very different and much less clear to a teenager in Bethlehem 30 years before Jesus had even started his ministry.

In fact it is a response that probably raised more questions than it answered. Mary must have wondered, "What do you mean the Holy Spirit will come upon me? What will that be like? What will it feel like? And what will the child be like? What do you mean holy? Who will call him the Son of God?"

Mary's "yes" was an act of faith. She didn't say yes because all her questions were answered and everything made perfect sense. She said yes because she was willing to go forward without all the answers. She said yes because she was willing to play her part in God's plan without knowing all the details.

That's what faith is, and it shouldn't seem so



AITH AND OURS

strange to us. We all operate by faith a good bit of the time. Not just Mary, but every woman who ever willingly had a child did so without a complete understanding of how her life would change. All parents sign on for an adventure that will take them places they may never have planned to go. People who get married are in the same boat. When they say, "I will," whether they realize it or not they are stating only the first half of a sentence, the end of which they will discover n the future. "I will ... move across the country when my spouse gets transfered." "I will ... help ake care of my in-laws when they get older." "I will . . . try to be patient when my spouse decides o change careers in mid-life." Whenever we make a new friend, or take a new job, we act in faith. We make a commitment without knowing ust what we are getting ourselves into.

One of the consequences of faith is that ometimes we pass through hard times. We are ed by faith into situations we otherwise might have avoided. Think again of Mary. Just a week after Jesus' birth, some strange man in the emple says to her, "And a sword will pierce your own soul, too" (Luke 2:35). A couple of years ater, Mary and her family have to flee to a foreign country because Herod sets about killing all he little boys in the vicinity of Bethlehem. When esus is a teenager, he stays behind in Jerusalem without telling his parents. As a man, he gives up his trade, which may have been Mary's means of upport, to go out preaching. And as he preaches, he gets himself into trouble, so much rouble that he winds up on a cross.

How many times do you suppose Mary ried out in prayer, "God, why are you doing his to me? Why are you putting me through this? God, I didn't know that this was a part of what you were asking me to do! When I said yes, I didn't know about this!"

Nowhere in the Bible does it ever say that those who have faith will not have troubles. If everyone who made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ never had any trouble after that, evangelism would be a snap! But that's not how it is. A profession of faith doesn't guarantee a life without troubles. Faith is a commitment to follow God wherever God leads, and when it comes to guarantees, there are really only two.

The first is that even though God may lead you through some dark and dangerous places, God will never lead you astray. And the second is that God will never abandon you along the way. God will always be with you.

A colleague of mine gives this charge to new Christians as they come up out of the baptismal waters: "By this act of baptism, we welcome you to a journey that will take your whole life. This isn't the end. It's the beginning of God's experiment with your life. What God will make of you we know not. Where God will take you we cannot say. How God will surprise you only time will tell. But this we do know—God is with you, now and forever."

Mary is a model of faith for us all. As again we remember her role in the plan of God, let us be reminded of what faith really is. It is not having all the answers, not avoiding all life's troubles, not just a walk in the park. No, faith is a willingness to travel an unknown road with a trusted friend.

James Benedict is pastor of the Union Bridge (Md.) Church of the Brethren.

How many times do you suppose Mary cried out in prayer, "God, why are you doing this to me? Why are you putting me through this? God, I didn't know that this was a part of what you were asking me to do! When I said yes, I didn't know about this!"

Return to Liao Chou

by Jeff Bach

During research for the article "Remembering Brethren martyrs in China" (October), Gene and Joe Wampler provided contacts with Rowena Lee of New Jersey. She is the granddaughter of Wang Kuei Jung, one of the martyrs. Her father, Wang Bao Tien, a 12-year-old boy at the time his father was killed, has been visiting her from China and granted an oral interview just as the previous article went to press. This "revisit" to Liao Chou comes largely from that interview, plus information which adult children of the American missionaries added.

Wang Bao Tien, a 12-year-old in 1940 who had been baptized a year or so earlier, took food to his father (Wang Kuei Jung), his uncle (Wang Kuei Lin), and his cousin (Wang Pao Lo), who were in prison. The three prisoners also sent messages home to their wives and families through Wang Bao Tien. Often these were matters of family finances, since the three prisoners expected to be executed. Some of the messages offered comfort and encouragement. All the notes were lost during the war years.

Kuei Jung and Kuei Lin were among the earliest converts in Liao Chou. Their family, of a poor background, had found employment with the Brethren missionaries. As children they had received education in the mission school, and their children were being schooled. In spite of the suffering, Wang Bao Tien and his surviving relatives held a positive attitude toward their connections with the Brethren.

Wang Bao Tien learned that in jail, his father, uncle, and cousin were beaten daily, as were the other prisoners. The Japanese officials wanted them to admit to being workers for the Communist party. Their captors told them plainly they would be killed because they associated with Americans. Although the prisoners agreed to the false charges, they knew that they suffered because they were Christians, trusting in and working for Jesus. True to Brethren convictions, they had indeed cared for wounded Chinese soldiers and the sick displaced by the war. These Chinese Christians were ready to offer the same care to the Japanese.

In prison, Wang Bao Tien's father was jailed separately because he was considered a leader. Bao Tien saw and heard the prisoners pray together. However, they were forbidden to have Bibles or to sing. Even though he was a child, he sensed that his father, uncle, and cousin, along with the others, would eventually be killed.

One day Wang Bao Tien discovered that his father was no longer in the jail. Japanese soldiers told him that the prisoners had been moved to another city. In fact, most of them had already been killed. A few days later, some Chinese people who saw the executions came to Wang Bao Tien's family, offering to help get the bodies back in exchange for money. Because of the war, the family had no money and thus could not recover the bodies. The witnesses said the bodies were put into a mass grave, "The Hole of 10,000 Dead Bodies." To this day Wang Bao Tien does not know exactly where the mass grave is located.

The daughter of missionary Ernest Wampler, Sara, reported that her father told of going to the provincial capital at Taiyuan to obtain a pardon from the Japanese officials. As he walked back to Liao Chou, he met a group from there about two miles out of the city. "I have the pardon," he announced. The Chinese replied, "They've been shot."

Wang Kuei Jung, one of the Chinese martyrs, *is pictured second from right. He was a teacher, preacher, and father of a twelve-year-old boy.*

Because of the secrecy of the executions and the repressive climate of the Japanese occupation, Wang Bao Tien's mother could not wear the traditional black to signify mourning in Chinese culture. She was so fearful that she ran out of Liao Chou in order to grieve in private. She was a widow with four young children. At this point in the interview, both Wang Bao Tien and his daughter, Rowena, wept for the deep sorrow that their family experienced 60 years ago.

In the weeks after the executions, missionary Anna Hutchison talked wit some of the Chinese Brethren about staying or leaving. She realized that th Japanese wanted the Americans out of the region. She could do nothing more to help the Chinese Christians. If she stayed, probably more Chinese would be killed. The Chinese Brethren supported her decision to leave. She had expressed a desire to be buried in China upon her death, a wish that we unfulfilled when she died in Maryland in 1959. Wang Bao Tien went to her grave during a visit in 1997 to pay respect to her memory.

Wang Bao Tien's uncle, Wang Kuei Lin, served as cook in the women's missionary house in Liao Chou. He was one of the last two Christians executed (Nov. 16, 1940). Although he had been released from arrest earlier, he knew, ike the others, that he also would be killed. The family realized it also. The uncle asked Wang Bao Tien, as the oldest surviving male of his brother's family, to care for the surviving widows and children as best he could.

After the Japanese withdrew from northern China, the Brethren attempted to meet in small groups in private homes to pray, study the Bible, and worship. The meetings were never public. After the communist victory in China, Christian worship was forbidden, and the Brethren disbanded. No Christian presence carried on. The hospital and school buildings of the Liao Chou mission were bombed by the Japanese. The church building, which was constructed very well, still stands, although it is empty and now run down. For a time it was used as a grocery store.

When asked how he would like readers to remember his father and relatives and the other Chinese Brethren, Wang Bao Tien expressed the deep sorrow and misfortune that war brought. He still holds good thoughts about the Americans and the church, and hopes that this might be a bridge for good relationships between Chinese and US people, and bring better prospects for peace.

The grief and loss suffered by Wang Bao Tien's family and the other families stand alongside the faith and courage that the 13 Brethren of Liao Chou (now Zuo Xien) showed. Bao Tien's memories are a gift by which to honor the sacrifice of the victims and their survivors, and to strengthen faith in Christ as witnesses and peacemakers in the present.

Jeff Bach, of Richmond, Ind., is associate professor of Brethren and Historical Studies at Bethany Theological Seminary.

BRETHRENING

Candy corn and colored mints

"Let me see what's in here, Gene." Preacher Flory's plump fingers delved into my shirt pocket, wiggled a bit, and came out pinching three grains of candy corn.

"Well! What have we here?" he beamed as he handed his surprise find to me. At this point, his generous grin showed a gold tooth or two. Sunday before, he found colored mints hiding magically in my pocket, but today's chewy candy corn was his specialty. Whatever, his discoveries were on a par with Jesus' loaves and fishes and a lot more gratifying at welve o'clock on a Sunday morning.

Even if he had never found candy in my pockets, I'd have made sure to file by Preacher Flory at the close of the Sunday morning service. He teased me a lot in a nice way. He never old me that he liked me, but I know he did. I never told him I iked him, but he knew. It just felt good to be around Preacher Flory, whose first name was Charles. He pastored four hurches in southwestern Ohio from 1913 to 1941. He was pastor of my church, the Troy (Ohio) Church of the Brethren, rom 1932-1941. He died in 1941 at the age of 68.

In the pulpit he was . . . well . . . active! Were it proper to wager a bag of candy corn on Preacher Flory, I would wager he would win fists down in several categories of preaching oratory.

Right off, the pulpit must have been made of two-inch sold oak or ironwood to withstand the pounding of his white-knuckled fists when spiritual truths called for emphases. His unaided, deep voice, when he turned on the power, could have filled Yankee Stadium. Translated to our small church, seating capacity of about 100, there was little slumber during sermon time.

He would have few competitors for the intensity of blood supply to his head and neck, and no one would have lost more body weight in a 20-minute period. He often jested that not many souls were saved after 20 minutes of preaching. But during that short period he was all-out, like a sprinter in the 100-yard dash.

Reverend Charles Flory

In his sermons he often spoke of the Evil One, his pernicious ways, and his overheated habitat. He made it sound like an excellent place to avoid. He talked of gossipers, fornicators (I had no idea what that meant), cheats, and liars, and made suggestions about how to behave and not behave in order to establish a desirable residency in that long period of time which he said had no end. Some of his preaching was pretty scary for a young kid like me.

Most often though, he spoke of Jesus and God's love. Jesus the peacemaker; Jesus who taught forgiveness; Jesus the one who taught the second-mile principle; Jesus the storyteller; Jesus who walked on water. He was always inviting us to follow his Jesus. I think he wanted us to think, act, and be like Him.

"God is love," shouted Preacher Flory. "God is love," he whispered. "God is love," his life proclaimed. Preacher Flory's love was imprinted on each grain of candy corn and mints he found in my pocket.—**Gene Palsgrove**

Gene Palsgrove, of Modesto, Calif., is moderator of the Modesto Church of the Brethren.

Resist the

By bucking tren

story and photography by **David Radcliff**

Can you pick a Christian out of a crowd? Does something about their appearance or manner—the clothes they wear, the cut of their hair, the way they speak—give them away?

In one sense we should not be able to readily differentiate believers from the general population. Jesus was one who moved easily among the crowd, mingling and mixing with persons of many stripes. And there is nothing to suggest that his clothing or other outward condition set him apart from others. Indeed it is telling that, for all the gospel writers recorded about Jesus, no mention is made of his appearance or of particular personal idiosyncrasies. Outwardly, our Lord must have been remarkably ordinary.

> Jesus could be quite contrary, resisting trends and realities he saw as opposed to God's way. Indeed, we could say that Jesus lived his life in creative tension with the prevailing values of his time, including the accepted norms of the religious community.

Yet Jesus was clearly distinguishable from the crowd in another sense. He could be quite contrary, resisting trends and realities he saw as opposed to God's way. Indeed, we could say that Jesus lived his life in creative tension with the prevailing values of his time, including the accepted norms of the religious community. His attitude toward outsiders, his acceptance of women and children, his understanding of God, his perspectives on enemies, sinners, the ill of body or mind—all these set him apart. In these and other ways, he resisted many of the prevailing tendencies of the society of his day.

This is not to say that Jesus in any way despised or disparaged the world around him. He seemed to enjoy being with people, especially "worldly" folks. He referred to God's creation repeatedly in his teaching. And he refused to remove his flock of followers from society in search of ethical or religious purity. He and they were fully in the world—the world which, according to the gospel, God so loves.

Nevertheless, Jesus found himself resisting trends in the world that were destructive to God's children. In some cases, he resisted things we inflict upon ourselves, such as the worship of money and the spiritual toll this exacts. Jesus also resisted portrayals of God tha limited God's love to a select company or that made God seem more interested in rule-keeping than grace-giving. Other points of resistance involved the way people treat one another. Jesus would not tolerate racism, sexism, or violence among his followers or in the world around him

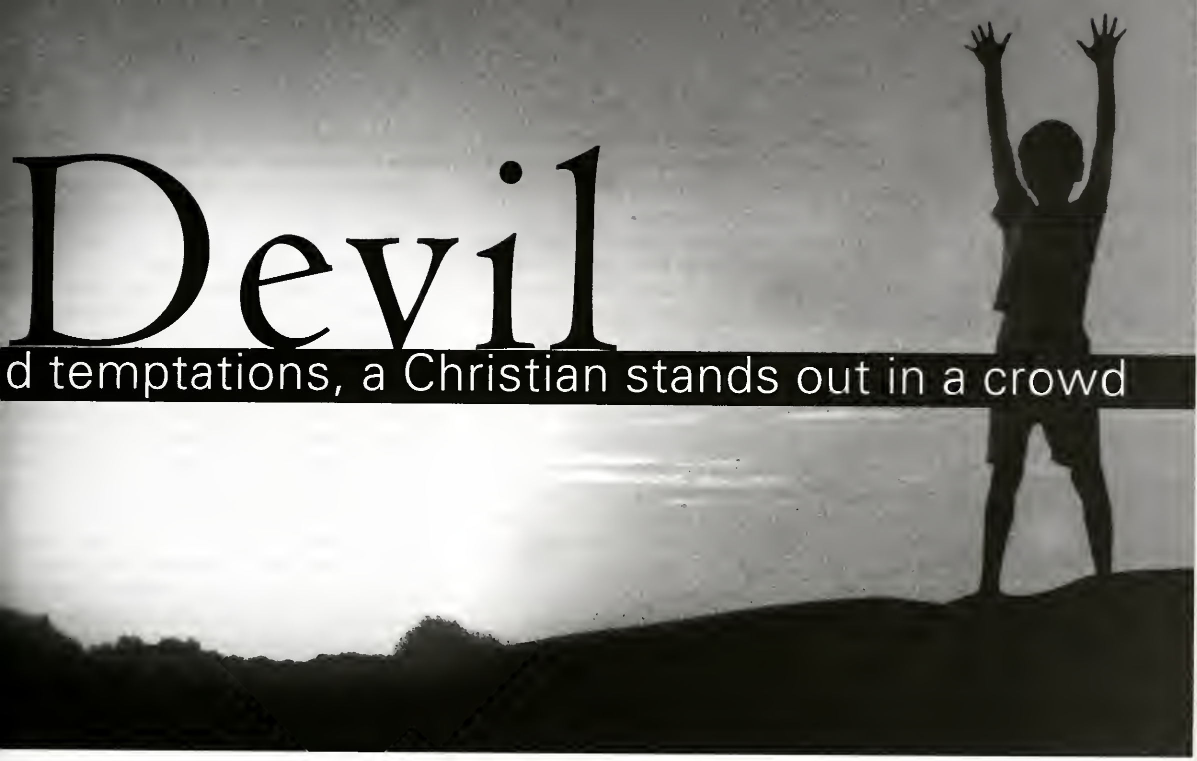
People around Jesus certainly noted his peculiar attitudes and teachings. Some were excited enough to leave everything to follow him on this path. Others were intrigued enough to climb a tree or travel great distances to get a better look Still others were put off enough by Jesus' different approach that they conspired to kill him. One thing was certain: his life and his approach to his world could not be easily ignored.

Since Jesus' time, the relationship of the church to the world has taken many forms. Different segments of the church have responded to the world in different ways, depending on their understanding of Jesus' teachings and th particular situation in which they lived.

On the whole, however, I would suggest that the church has rarely been willing to live in the kind of creative tension with the world that characterized Jesus' ministry. Instead, many "mainline" churches, and increasingly even thos born at the margins of Christendom, have becom acclimated to the world around them to the exte that one would be hard-pressed to discern substantial differences in attitudes or actions.

Devil

d temptations, a Christian stands out in a crowd



Christians are not instructed by Jesus to auto- natically reject or despise the world, including ts cultural and societal dimensions. Yet when esus tells us that we are to be "salt" and "light" o the world, there seems to be an implicit icknowledgment that there will be something ubstantially different about the way we are in he world. Indeed, according to this teaching, he world should be able to look to the Christian ommunity as a beacon of another way of living, way of living contrary to prevailing norms.

It is difficult for Christians or anyone to consis- ently go against the flow of popular opinion or ccepted mores. We all want to be liked and ffirmed by those around us, and going against the system" can sometimes lead to estrangement or ven evoke anger. In addition, our lives are bound p in the society, from its economy, to its social tructure, to its assumptions about morality. Thus o take a different course can sometimes mean to urn our backs on things that have become part of he fabric of our lives. And few of us enjoy the iso- ating experience of taking a minority viewpoint hat makes us appear quirky, misguided, or worse.

Being Brethren presents yet another hurdle, s we like to be known for being good citizens nd cooperative neighbors. We like to be liked; ome of us live to be liked. Yet whether we like t or not, the world we live in—just as Jesus' vorld—cries out for people to resist the many destructive dimensions at work in it and to point the way to a new day.

Nonresistance, rather than resistance, has been more the Brethren way. Refusing to fight. Declining to retaliate. Choosing not to litigate. We have gone out of our way to keep from actively resisting wrongdoing. In most cases this is a biblical and appropriate response to wrongs inflicted upon us or even upon our community of faith.

Today, however, we, our neighbors, and our neighborhoods are subject to forces that call for resistance if we are to live the kind of lives God intends. And many of the wrongs are being done not so much against us as against our neighbors and our neighborhood. Our neighbors—our kindred near and far— suffer hunger and injustice, or the depersonalization of modern society and enslavement to the consumer culture. Our neighborhood—God's good creation—is under assault as never before in history.

I have mentioned some of the points at which Jesus felt the need to resist the flow of society. Where are our points of possible resistance? Where are the places where a Christian witness is needed to restore our spirits, to renew our relationships, to reconnect us with the goodness of God's earth?

Depersonalization. A friend was pleased to be able to conduct all his banking over the Internet, noting that such an arrangement saves time and fossil fuel. But is there a hidden cost?

> We all want to be liked and affirmed by those around us, and going against the "system" can sometimes lead to estrangement or even evoke anger.

Can we dare to become engaged with our world, recovering a sense of our own important role as individuals and as people of faith?

This is one more area of life with the personal dimension removed from it, reducing to a string of numbers any relationship between us and our financial institution.

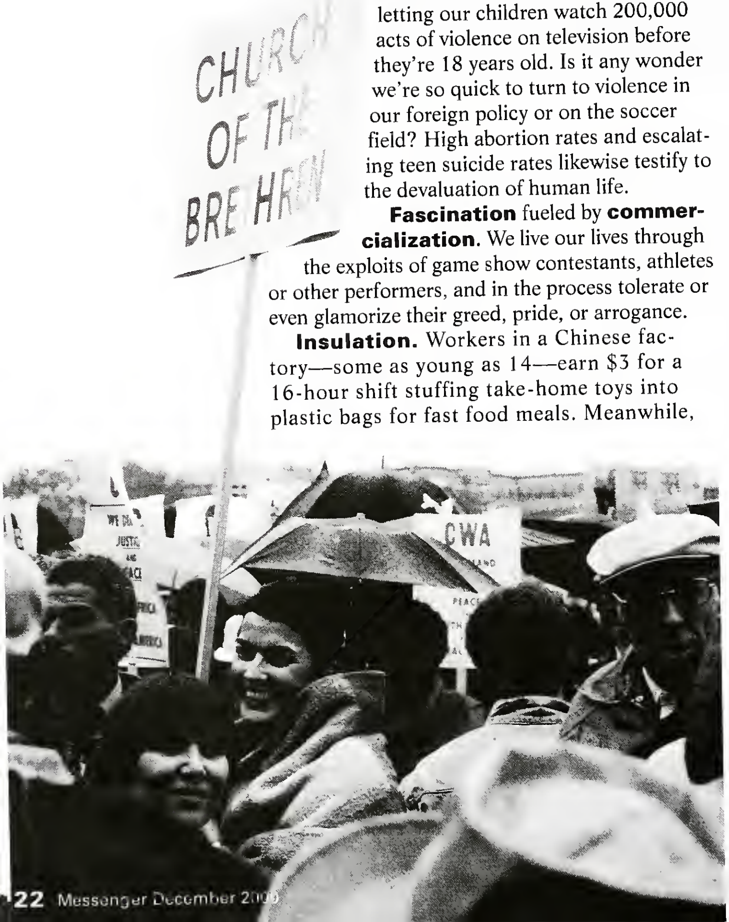
Automation. While we spend $30 billion on weight loss programs every year, Americans seem bent on taking physical exertion out of even the simplest tasks. Will peeling a potato become a lost art in a society that gets 20 percent of its "vegetable" intake from french fries and potato chips?

Accumulation. In less than 10 years our estimate of the amount of money needed to provide us with the "necessities" of life has doubled. So has the amount of money spent on each of us by advertisers. From the forests to the seas to the skies, the earth is paying a price for our consuming ways. And still, just like the little band from Liverpool sang long ago, "Money can't buy me love." We're no happier and a lot more stressed than we've ever been.

Militarization. We spend $1 billion a day on our military while letting our children watch 200,000 acts of violence on television before they're 18 years old. Is it any wonder we're so quick to turn to violence in our foreign policy or on the soccer field? High abortion rates and escalating teen suicide rates likewise testify to the devaluation of human life.

Fascination fueled by **commercialization.** We live our lives through the exploits of game show contestants, athletes or other performers, and in the process tolerate or even glamorize their greed, pride, or arrogance.

Insulation. Workers in a Chinese factory—some as young as 14—earn $3 for a 16-hour shift stuffing take-home toys into plastic bags for fast food meals. Meanwhile, we spend a billion dollars a day eating out. Is there anything wrong with this picture?



Over-saturation. When I asked a group of pastors recently about the number one challenge to deepening the spirituality of congregations, their first response was: "Football." From cell phones to sports schedules, we too seldom carve out a sacred space for the development of our faith and our commitment to the church.

If these are some of the areas where resistance may be needed, what then is our response? Here are some possibilities in a world like ours.

Discipline. Few of us can just say no to invitations to indulge our families or ourselves. While our credit card balances provide the empirical evidence, the real cost is to the planet and to our spiritual wellness, as we fall for the lie that things equal happiness. Why not form a group in your congregation to read a book on simple living?

Engagement. The entertainment industry constantly attempts to seduce us into living vicariously through others. Can we dare to become engaged with our world, recovering a sense of our own important role as individuals and as people of faith?

Contemplation. Perhaps nothing is as important—and as challenging—in a 24/7/365-world like ours as creating the mental and spiritual space to think about ourselves, our faith, and our world. The world doesn't want us to stop and think for fear that we may realize the futility of conformity or the beauty of simplicity.

Redefinition. Young people I talk to can quickly describe the "ideal" teen as defined by print and video media. And even though it's hard for them because of the pressure on them to conform to these images, they can see through these false ideals and often muster the strength to reject them. Can we define ourselves by our relationship with God and the quality of our relationships with others and with God's earth, rather than let someone else tell us who we are? In a world in which we are constantly defined as "not okay," this will take the kind of self-esteem that only an assurance of God's love for us—as we are—can give.

Conscious withdrawal. It's hard, but we can do it: turn off the television, stay away from th mall, get off the mailing list. We can experience the freedom of not being consumed with consumption

Building community. Ironically, the "information age" finds us less in touch with our neighbors now than at an earlier time in history. On an international scale, we know more about our world and take more trips to more places tha ever before. Yet we turn a blind eye to the grindin poverty of 1.5 billion of our global neighbors and tolerate a massive and powerful military designed to kill millions. It is a radical thing to share life and share about life with others in our family, church, and neighborhood, while refusing to accept national or economic boundaries separating us from God's children everywhere.

Gardening. The editor thought this was wimpy, but I think it's essential. Few things are as mentally therapeutic, spiritually renewing, nutritionally rewarding, or ecologically sound as planting a vegetable garden. If this isn't possible, build a relationship with someone in the "community-supported agriculture" movement—a local person with whom you can contract to keep you in fresh vegetables much of the year. Seek other ways to take small tasks back into your own hands. For instance, avoid automatic doors, unnecessary electronic appliances, and hopping in the car to take a short trip to the store. There will be environmental as well as health benefits, and a sense of reconnecting with the basic routines of daily life.

Granted, planting a garden may not sound subversive. Neither may the other simple actions and attitudes mentioned above. But think for a minute of the different life histories of a potato or tomato you grow and these same products as they show up at a fast food restaurant. The amount of water, energy, and chemicals it takes to grow them; how "imperfect" samples are dealt with; the different levels of equipment, storage facilities, packaging, and fossil fuels nvolved in handling and shipping; the amount of processing and the way the food is cooked and the effect this has on its nutritional content; the packaging and advertising that are part of marketing them to the public; the energy used in our getting to the restaurant; the lost opportunity for a meal around the family table; the per-unit cost of the final product (perhaps 10 imes more when eaten out), and the stewardship questions this raises. Suddenly, to plant a omato is to make a statement! And the end product may actually taste like its namesake.

In a world like ours, with increasing trends oward conformity, dehumanization, and automation, these seemingly innocuous deeds and attitudes are very-nearly-radical steps. People around us will recognize them as counter-cultural and as marks of resistance—and thus as signs of life and hope.

Indeed they can become guideposts for our neighbors. Many people feel caught up in things hey believe to be beyond their control. They sense hey are being betrayed by the empty promises of the world around them. To know someone whose love for God, for others, and for God's earth has caused them to choose another path may be just the sign of hope they have needed. Strengthened and supported, they too may begin to find the way to genuine fullness of life.

"Resist the devil and he will flee from you." I'm not big on the devil, but I note that in this passage of James 4 the writer equates the demonic with our human inclination toward pride, greed, violence, and war. This passage rightly asserts that these are troubling realities in our world. They will not go away with our wishful thinking or by simply pretending they are not for real. We must find ways to actively resist trends that are destructive to God's people and God's earth.

And though we sometimes shy away from outwardly demonstrating "another way of living," we might find that there are those around us who would be intrigued and attracted to such a witness—just as people were to our Lord.

As I walked down our front hallway during a break in a Saturday meeting at the offices some time back, I heard a knock on the front door. I could see a person through the glass panel, and went over to speak with her. As we talked through the glass—the door was locked—I learned that she had come to shop in our SERRV shop which, unbeknownst to her, had closed several months before. We arranged to meet at the back door, where I gave her a SERRV catalog.

She began to inquire about our church, saying that she was attracted by our commitment to service and hadn't found other churches with similar principles. Not long after this, she showed up with her husband at our congregation. They soon brought friends, and before long the whole bunch of them became members.

We need not apologize for being out of step with some aspects of modern life. Indeed, as we walk this path, we are in good company, as it is the path walked by our Lord before us. We will find that our lives have a new rhythm, and perhaps that our words and ways are helping make needed changes in our world.

We need not apologize for being out of step with some aspects of modern life. Indeed, as we walk this path, we are in good company, as it is the path walked by our Lord before us. We will find that our lives have a new rhythm, and perhaps that our words and ways are helping make needed changes in our world. And we soon may find ourselves joined by others who have been looking for just such a group of travelers that they themselves might join.

Even though we may not be readily identifiable in a crowd, if we resist the devilish ways of our world it won't take others long to see that God is at work in our lives in strange, and surprisingly subversive, ways. *M.*

David Radcliff, a regular contributor to Messenger, is director of Brethren Witness for the General Board.

Complete the Picture.

Give Messenger for Christmas.

A gift of Messenger invites those you care about into the ministries of the Church of the Brethren. On a monthly basis, they are invited into a broad conversation where faith and values are examined, discipleship is nurtured, and ministries in Jesus' name are lifted up.

Give Messenger to family and friends. Give Messenger to someone for whom you are praying. Give Messenger to those in your congregation who don't already receive it.

Gift subscriptions are $13.50 each. Send names and addresses and a check payable to Messenger to: Messenger Subscriptions, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120. Call 800-323-8039 x247 for more information. A gift card will be sent to each recipient.

Church of the Brethren MESSENGER

INDEX 2000

isted on these pages are
rticles, editorials, opinions,
nd names of contributors
hat have appeared in Mes-
enger during 2000. They are
lassified in four main
roups: authors, congrega-
ions, names, and subjects.
lumbers following the list-
ngs indicate month and
age number, with 1/2 repre-
enting the combined
anuary/February issue.

AUTHORS

DAMS, SANDY
In Touch ..8-5

LLEY, ROBERT
In Touch ..11-3

ACH, JEFF
Remembering Brethren martyrs in China ..10-10
Return to Liao Chou ..12-18

ENEDICT, JAMES
Here am I: A meditation on Mary's faith and ours ..12-16

ERKHEIMER, RON
In Touch ..7-4

ITTINGER, EMMERT
A day with the John Kline riders ..11-10

LAKE, ROBERT
How churches can raise the veil on mental illness ..4-12

LDUCH, JOYCE C.
In Touch ..19-5

OLEYN, LESTER
In Touch ..11-3

OLEYN, ESTHER FRANTZ
When the Bible crashed into Sudan ..5-14

OWERS, CINDY
In Touch ..10-4

OWMAN, CHRIS
What to do unto "others," ..10-24

RUMBAUGH-CAYFORD, CHERYL
In Touch ..11-5

ARACHEO, SALLY JO
Houses for hurricane refugees (Dominican Republic) ..6-15

ASSEL, FRANKLIN K.
Still growing at Brethren Village ..8-19

ROUSE, REBECCA BAILE
A medical doctor with a mission ..4-14

OUGLAS, CHRIS
Recommended reading for spiritual growth ..11-14

BERLY, WILLIAM R.
In Touch ..3-4

DMONDS, EDDIE H.
The children of Conference ..9-18

GBERT, BARBARA
In Touch ..8-3

RVIN, TAVIA
The love connection: Why there are Brethren homes ..8-12
Piecing the church together (Annual Conference) ..9-17

FARRAR, FLETCHER
The look of the new Annual Conference ..1/2-6
For the love of Emily (Moderator Emily Mumma) ..5-10
Growing the spirit ..5-20
Back to work in India ..8-21
Ideas and eloquence (Annual Conference) ..9-20
Editorial: Bible study and the Kingdom of God ..1/2-32
Editorial: The people of Turning Points ..3-32
Editorial: Living like we're dying ..4-32
Editorial: Springtime in the neighborhood ..5-32
Editorial: Forgiveness isn't fair ..6-32
Editorial: To Sam, on becoming an Eagle Scout ..7-32
Editorial: Let's talk about race ..8-32
Editorial: Steady until the sun sets ..9-32
Editorial: Beware the politics of God-talk ..10-32
Editorial: Treasure hunt in Tijuana ..11-36
Editorial: Mystery at Seneca Rocks ..12-32

FIKE, MELVIN AND LISA
In Touch ..9-4

FLORY, KENDRA
In Touch ..8-5
The house of heritage (Brethren Historical Library and Archives) ..9-22

FOURMAN, LARRY D.
A better way to do church business (Worshipful-Work) ..6-10

GIBBLE, KENNETH L.
It causes me to tremble: An Easter reflection on a favorite spiritual ..4-24

GISH, ART
Working for peace in the Holy Land ..7-22

GOLDEN, ROGER
A new vision for senior services ..8-17

GROFF, KEN
In Touch ..3-5

GROSS, RACHEL
Brethrening: Directions and connections ..10-23

GROSSNICKLE, STEPHANIE
Youth share the spirit at Shepherd's Spring ..9-8

GROUT, PAUL
Seven Symptoms of Wellness ..11-17

HAMMAKER, EVA
In Touch ..9-5

HARE, BILL
Night sounds (Honduras) ..7-21

HENDERSON, SANDY
Come with me to a quiet place (retreat house at Camp Mack) ..4-26

HERSHEY, S. JOAN
In Touch ..6-4

HOLLINGER, HELEN S.
Wes Albin–A walking partner ..4-11

HORNBACKER, TARA
Worshipful-Work at the seminary ..6-11

HOSTETTER, JULIE
In Touch ..9-3
Ministers' Association hears 'Preaching in a Webbed World' ..9-14

KEENEY, MERVIN
Gifts of living water (One Great Hour of Sharing) ..3-25

KEENEY, G. MARTIN
What churches can do for the depressed ..4-10

KELTNER, MARGARET HARTSOCK
In Touch ..7-3

KIRK, EDIE
Nurturing the ministry of Brethren homes ..8-14

KRAUSE-VILMAR, GEORG
Making a difference ..10-14

LASZAKOVITS, GREG
Writing to death row (Death Row Support Project) ..3-10

LAWRENCE, MICHAEL
Making a difference ..10-14

LEITER, MIKE
A life devoted to nonviolence education ..1/2-5

LERSCH, PHIL
In Touch ..7-4

LERSCH, JEAN
Brethrening: Family values ..1/2-25

LOOMIS, ANDREW J.
Reflections on a Balkan journey ..3-22

MATTESON, ERIN
A solution for the church bored ..6-13
Gifts make worship work:Bringing God close at Annual Conference ..9-14

MAYER, ROBIN WENTWORTH
Discovering a vision ..7-25

MCFADDEN, WENDY
From the publisher ..1/2-2, 3-2, 4-2, ..5-2, 6-2, 7-2, 8-2, 9-2, 10-2 ..11-2, 12-2
On the inward journey: New efforts to foster spiritual formation ..11-12

MCKIBBEN, DIXIE
Toothless: A great-grandchild adventure ..10-18

CHERYL MISHLER
In Touch ..12-5

MITCHELL, GLENN
Seven Symptoms of Wellness ..11-17

MOERDYK, RUTH
In Touch ..8-4

MORPHEW, BETH SOLLENBERGER
Finding God in the everyday ..11-24

NEHER, KEN
Brethrening: Clothespin memories ..10-17

NOLEN, HEATHER
Say yes to Jubilee 2000 ..3-15

OLTMAN, BERWYN L.
Adventures with grandchildren ..10-18

PAGE, M. THERESE
Flower power: Peter Becker Community draws thousands to its annual bloomfest ..8-17

PALMER, ANNE E.
In Touch ..6-5, 12-4

PALSGROVE, GENE
Brethrening ..12-19

PAVONE, LAURIE
In Touch ..5-3

POLING, ED
Annual Conference delegates reflect on changes ..9-10

RADCLIFF, DAVID
Caring for creation: Reflections from a Faith Expedition to Central America ..4-19
J2K: New hope, New Day: A status report on spirituality in action ..11-16
Resist the Devil: By bucking trends and temptations, a Christian stands out in a crowd ..12-20

REPLOGLE, JIM
In Touch ..12-3

REYNOLDS, IRENE SHULL
In Touch ..5-5

RHOADES, AMY
The life of Haitians in the Dominican Republic ..4-17

RHODES, DONNA
In Touch ..3-5

RIEMAN, PHIL & LOUIE BALDWIN
In Touch ..10-4

ROTH, PAUL
Introducing a spiritual presence to Annual Conference ..6-13

ROYER, HOWARD E.
Celebration and struggle (National Council of Churches assembly) ..1/2-17
In Touch ..5-4
Honduras: Empowering God's people ..7-12

SHAFFER, KEN
Caring for our "mother" church ..6-18

SHETLER, MARCIA
From Africa to Indiana (Nigerian student at Bethany) ..1/2-20

SMELTZER, KEN KLINE
In Touch ..7-5

SMITH, JEANNE JACOBY
Alexander Mack is back ..6-20

SMYTH, ALLAN
In Touch ..3-3

SOLLENBERGER, ELAINE
In Touch ..7-4

SARA SPEICHER
O troubled town of Bethlehem ..12-10

SPRINKLE, PATTI
Brethrening: How a bike averted disaster ..6-22

TIMMONS, GLENN
On the cover: Worshipful-Work ..6-1

VECCHIO, JOE
In Touch ..8-5

WALTERSDORFF, CHRISTY J.
Preach sisters! ..1/2-13

WILSON, SARA
In Touch ..4-3

WILTSCHEK, WALT
A different kind of church camp ..1/2-22
Celebrating 25 years of peacemaking (OEPA) ..1/2-24
God's word in Nuer ..5-15
Ministry of medicine (Interchurch Medical Assistance) ..5-24
Hunger for justice: Christian Citizenship Seminar takes youth to power ..6-23
Andrew Young shares fond memories of Camp Mack ..7-6
Camp changes lives ..7-9
Raves for the Jubilee tour ..8-11
The Brethren connection to a saint ..10-16
Catching the spirit for youth ..11-21
Still fresh and green (National Older Adult Conference) ..11-28

YODER, WANDA
In Touch ..11-5

YOUNG, DAVID S.
Brethren poised for renewal ..3-19

ZUNKEL, WAYNE
In Touch ..11-4

CONGREGATIONS

28th Street, Altoona, Pa.1/2-3, 4-7
Akron, Pa. ..10-23
Ambler, Pa. ..9-10
Antioch, Rocky Mount, Va. ..9-4, 10-3
Aughwick-Germany Valley, Shirleysburg, Pa. ..9-11
Battle Creek, Mich. ..9-17
Beachdale, Berlin, Pa. ..11-10
Beaver Creek, Knoxville, Tenn. ..1/2-5
Bella Vista, Los Angeles, Calif. ..5-6
Bethel-Keezletown, Keezletown, Va. ..9-5
Black Rock, Glen Rock, Pa. ..11-30
Bridgewater, Va. ..11-3
Broadwater, Essex, Mo. ..7-3
Brook Park, Ohio ..7-5
Brothersvalley, Berlin, Pa. ..11-10
Brownsville, Md. ..10-4
Cando, N. D. ..11-33
Cedar Grove, New Paris, Ohio ..9-12
Central Evangelical Korean, Los Angeles, Calif. ..4-8
Chambersburg, Pa. ..1/2-3, 10-23
Champaign, Ill. ..11-4
Chiques, Manheim, Pa. ..3-8
Collinsville, Va. ..8-11
Crest Manor, South Bend, Ind. ..6-11, 10-22
Curryville, Pa. ..3-32, 4-5
Dayton, Va. ..3-4
Denton, Md. ..9-11
Donnels Creek, North Hampton, Ohio ..5-11
Dunnings Creek, New Paris, Pa. ..7-4
Dupont, Ohio ..12-5
Elizabethtown, Pa. ..3-18, 4-14, 11-4
Elkins, W.Va. ..1/2-11, 12-32
Ellisforde, Tonasket, Wash. ..10-7
Elm Steet, Lima, Ohio ..1/2-4
English Prairie, Brighton, Ind. ..11-5
Ephrata, Pa. ..6-4
Faith, Batavia, Ill. ..6-12
First, Chicago, Ill. ..5-11
First, Harrisburg, Pa. ..4-7, 4-11
First, Mount Airy, N.C. ..10-23
First, Phoenix, Ariz. ..3-13, 4-7
First, St. Petersburg, Fla. ..1/2-25, 5-11, 7-4
First, Springfield, Ill. ..9-18
Franklin Grove, Ill. ..5-7, 10-21
Fraternity, Winston-Salem, N.C. ..9-5
Genesis, Putney, Vt. ..4-1
Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa. ..4-7, 6-18
Green Tree, Oaks, Pa. ..5-5
Greenville, Ohio ..3-5
Grossnickle, Myersville, Md. ..9-14
Hagerstown, Md. ..1/2-5, 1/2-23, 3-8
Harrisonburg, Va. ..1/2-3
Hatfield, Pa. ..3-20
Hempfield, East Petersburg, Pa. ..6-3

INDEX 2000

Highland Avenue, Elgin, Ill. 6-17, 10-1, 12-3
Hollidaysburg, Pa. 1/2-5, 1/2-16, 5-10
Jackson Park, Jonesborough, Tenn. 1/2-4
Jeters Chapel, Bedford, County, Va..............8-4
Jones Chapel, Martinsville, Va....8-10
Koinonia, Grand Junction, Colo......8-4
Kokomo, Ind..........................7-26
La Porte, Ind..........................4-27
La Verne, Calif. 4-8, 9-21
Lafayette, Ind..........................4-5
Lampeter, Pa. 6-4
Lancaster, Pa..........................7-3
Lebanon, Pa. 1/2-3
Lincolnshire, Fort Wayne, Ind.....6-20
Linville Creek, Broadway, Va. 6-4, 6-13
Lititz, Pa.................................6-4
Little Pine, Ennice, N.C..........1/2-5
Live Oak, Calif. 6-5, 6-25, 7-5, 12-4
Living Stone, Cumberland, Md....11-3
Long Green Valley, Glen Arm, Md. 1/2-22, 5-5
Lynchburg, Va........................9-12
Mack Memorial, Dayton, Ohio ...6-8
Manassas, Va. 1/2-9, 9-11
Manchester, North Manchester, Ind. 3-4, 5-7, 7-8
Maple Grove, Salix, Pa...........11-10
Marilla, Mich............................3-5
McPherson, Kan. ....5-7, 6-22, ...8-11, 9-18
Mechanicsburg, Pa...........4-3, 9-13
Memorial, Martinsburg, Pa. ...10-25
Messiah, Kansas City, Mo. 7-3
Midway, Lebanon, Pa. 10-5
Modesto, Calif. 10-23
Moler Avenue, Martinsburg, W. Va.............9-19
Mount Vernon, Waynesboro, Va..3-20
Mount Pleasant, North Canton, Ohio...............9-3
Mountville, Pa..........................6-3
Myerstown, Pa. 10-9
New Beginnings, Warrensburg, Mo..............1/2-4
New Dale, Lost River, W.Va.......6-5
New Carlisle, Ohio 3-5
New Fairview, York Pa. 6-5
New Covenant, Columbus, Ohio 1/2-5
New Covenant Fellowship, Gotha, Fla.........................10-19
Oak Grove, Roanoke, Va...........4-8
Oakland, Gettysburg, Ohio ..1/2-21
Oakton, Va...........................10-23
Olathe, Kan............................6-12
Osage, McCune, Kan. 8-3, 9-19
Palmyra, Pa. 10-23
Panora, Iowa 8-3
Panorama City, Calif. 4-5
Panther Creek, Adel, Iowa 8-5
Peace, Portland, Ore. 6-5
Peniel, Santo Domingo, D.R. ...4-15
Pine Creek, North Liberty, Ind............1/2-28
Pitsburg, Arcanum, Ohio 8-5
Pittsburgh, Pa..........................5-4
Pleasant Hill, Grottoes, Va. 4-29
Pleasant Valley, Middlebury, Ind..................10-5
Polo, Ill. 7-21
Pomona Fellowship, Pomona, Calif........................8-8
Prairie City, Iowa 9-14
Prince of Peace, Kettering, Ohio 1/2-16
Prince of Peace, Littleton, Colo...11-5
Purchase Line, Clymer, Pa....4-4, 9-12
Pyrmont, Lafayette, Ind. 4-28
Riddlesburg, Pa. 4-5
Ridgely, Md. 4-4
Ridgeway Community, Harrisburg, Pa. 11-3
Roanoke Central, Roanoke, Va. ...7-4
Roaring Spring, Pa. 9-12
Sabetha, Kan. 12-5
Salisbury, Meyersdale, Pa......11-10
Scalp Level, Windber, Pa.......1/2-5
Sebring, Fla. 1/2-4
Shalom, Durham, N.C...........1/2-8
Sharpsburg, Md. 6-5
Skyridge, Kalamazoo, Mich. 4-4, 8-4, 10-5
Smith Mountain Lake, Va..1/2-16, 5-4
South Waterloo, Waterloo, Iowa ...6-7
Spindale, N.C. 1/2-5
Spring Mount, Warriors Mark, Pa. ..4-4
Springfield, Coopersburg, Pa...9-21
Stone, Huntingdon, Pa. .3-5, 4-13, 4-28
Stonerstown, Saxton, Pa. 7-5
Tire Hill, Pa..........................10-23
Trinity, Botetourt County, Va.1/2-3
Union Bridge, Md. 5-4, 6-24
University Baptist and Brethren, State College, Pa. 3-24
University Park, Hyattsville, Md. 10-15
Valley View, Whittier, Calif. 4-7
Wabash, Ind. 10-4
Washington City, Washington, D.C...6-6, 10-14, 12-4
Waynesboro, Pa. 3-19, 9-12
West Charleston, Tipp City, Ohio................1/2-21
West Goshen, Goshen, Ind....4-4, 9-6
West York, York, Pa. 6-28
Westminster, Md.1/2-11, 3-1, 5-25
Westmont, Johnstown, Pa.....1/2-5
Whitestone, Tonasket, Wash...10-7
Williamson Road, Roanoke, Va. 9-3, 9-14
Wilmington, Del....................10-21
York Center, Lombard, Ill.....1/2-13, 10-5, 10-21

NAMES

Abe, Steven 1/2-11
Addison, Michael 9-7
Albin, Joyce...........................4-11
Albin, Wes 4-10, 11
Archbold, Phill Carlos.............10-8
Asiala, Cindy............................3-5
Aukerman, Dale 3-12, 4-32
Aukerman, Ruth 3–1
Ault, Molly 7-10
Bach, Jeffrey...........1/2-10, 10-13
Bachman, Martha Wenger.........4-5
Baker, Jessica 10-23
Ball-Miller, Becky 4-27, 7-6
Barker, Joan 8-11
Barkey, Ray............................11-5
Barr, Carolyn..........................9-18
Beach, Martha R.......................5-7
Beckwith, Jim 7-4
Bender, Ann.............................7-6
Bernhard, Fred.......................8-14
Bhagat, Emmanuel P. 8-21
Bhagat, Shantilal....................8-22
Bittinger, Emmert 3-18, 11-11
Bixler, Russell 5-4
Blackwell, Jane 1/2-5
Blair, Kathy 1/2-5
Blake, Robert 4-12, 7-11
Blickenstaff, Delbert and Louise.................8-14, 9-17
Blough, Roy 5-4
Boleyn, Esther 3-6, 5-19
Boleyn, Lester...........3-6, 5-7, 5-18
Booz, Donald R. 5-7
Bosler, SueZann 1/2-24, 6-32
Boucek, Jeanne Suellentrop ...1/2-10
Bowman, S. Loren 8-22
Bowman, Stacey 10-23
Boyer, Charles 9-21
Brandt, Don 4-3
Brann, Morton........................8-18
Breckbill, Anita Stoltzfus...........8-4
Brown, Ambrosia 7-7
Brown, Ken 4-5
Brumbaugh, Arlan Scott 3-32
Brumbaugh, Barbara Jo...........3-32
Brumbaugh, Don 3-32
Brumbaugh, Harold B. 3-4
Brunk, Ron 4-19
Bucher, Christina 1/2-11
Bugu, Patrick 1/2-20, 9-6
Burton, D. Conrad and Marjorie 4-5
Bush, Clyde..............................4-5
Cain, Robert 8-15
Calderon, Karen 8-4
Calvanese, Lucy 8-1
Camden, Marshall 8-7
Campbell, Glen 8-22
Caracheo, Sally Jo 6-17
Carter, Phyllis................4-27, 6-20
Cason, Coy 7-5
Cason, Jo 7-5
Cassel, Franklin 8-19
Chase, Bob 8-6
Christiansen, Eric..............4-5, 5-7
Chronister, Karen....................9-12
Clannin, Lynn...........................8-9
Clapp, Steve 1/2-5
Cleaver, Emanuel.........1/2-6, 9-16
Coppock, Doris...................1/2-10
Crim, Virginia 8-16
Crouse, Gerald........................9-21
Crouse, Merle and Jean.........10-18
Crouse, Rebecca Baile............4-18
Crowell, Sally Carlson 9-15
Crumley, Patty and John...........3-9
Croushorn, Luke 12-3
Daniels, Marta 3-8
Davis, Barbara....................1/2-21
Davis, Linda 9-13
Delk, Ed 1/2-10
Derstine, Paul 5-24
Detrick Ralph 11-4
Diaz, Jan................................8-11
Dobberstein, Peter...................8-7
Doran, John 12-3
Dotterer, Judy 5-4
Douglas, Chris ....3-8, 11-15, ...11-21, 12-3
Drew, Norman and Margaret ...8-18
Drexel, Katharine 10-16
Drudge, Casey 6-20
Dulabaum, Nevin 9-7
Eberly, Chris 4-22
Edgar, Robert............1/2-18, 9-20
Edmonds, Eddie 9-18
Egbert, Vernon and Barbara 8-3
Encarnación, Guillermo............4-6
Engle, Steve 3-5
Ervin, Tavia...................8-13, 9-18
Eshbach, Theresa C..................4-5
Espinoza, Noemi 7-19, 9-21
Fahs, Eldon "Gene"....................6-5
Fast, Anita 3-16
Faus, Bob.................................8-6
Faus, Nancy 3-7
Faus, Sheryl.............................4-8
Fecher, Don 1/2-3
Fennel, Joe 6-25
Fields, Sue Wagner 3-17
Fike, Earle and Jean...........6-9, 8-5
Fike, John T. 8-17
Fike, Mel 10-3
Finney, Ron and Harriet 5-7, 9-6
Firestone, Reid 9-3
Flora, Russ.............................11-4
Florence, Angela 4-5
Flory, Barbara 9-18
Flory, Brian 9-10
Flory, Charles.......................12-19
Flory, Kendra.....8-6, 9-1, 9-24, 10-22
Flory, Lowell 6-9
Flory, Wendell 8-22
Flory-Steury, Mary Jo...1/2-16, 9-6
Fogelsanger, Don 1/2-3
Font, Louis...........................1/2-8
Foreman, JoAnne...................6-24
Foster, Richard 1/2-4, 5-20
Fourman, Larry D. 6-11
Frantz, Catherine Strahn 9-19
Frantz, Elmer and Dan............11-5
Frederick, Stafford 6-12
Gandy, Olivia T. 9-17
Garber, Nancy........................12-3
Garrett, Dean.........................9-10
Gibble, Kenneth L. 4-25
Gibble, Lamar 8-23
Gilbert, Dena 4-8
Gilbert, Noel 4-8
Gilbert, Sharon 4-8
Gish, Art 7-24
Glessner, Lois Ann 10-8
Godfrey, Ben...........................9-14
Golden, Roger.................8-18, 9-7
Good, Michael..........................7-8
Good, Monroe and Ada...........4-18
Greenawalt, Daniel 9-24
Gregory, Steve..........1/2-11, 10-3
Griffin, Emilie 5-21
Gross, Bob 10-8
Gross, Rachel..............3-10, 10-23
Grossman, Don 1/2-3
Grout, Paul ....4-1, 4-8, 4-32, ...6-8, 9-8, 9-12, 11-17
Grubb, Sue 11-9
Gump, Judy 4-8
Guynn, Matt......................3-9, 8-8
Haas, David..........................1/2-6
Halterman, Melvin W. 6-5
Hammaker, Eva 9-5
Hanley, Rich 11-26
Hansell, Allen 4-6, 9-14, 11-8
Hare, Bill 7-21
Hatfield, Terry 8-3
Hayes, Guy.........................1/2-10
Haynes, Pete......................1/2-22
Heckman, Demetra 7-10
Heishman, Nancy and Irvin 4-11
Henderson, Sandy..................4-27
Hendricks, Rachael Elizabeth...10-5
Henry, Jen 9-17
Hershey, Rochelle..........8-6, 10-21
Hershey, S. Joan....................7-26
Hiatt, Bobby..........................10-23
Hill, Ray.................................9-11
Hollinger, Helen Stutzman 4-11
Hollinger, Karen.....................9-11
Holman, Craig.....................1/2-10
Hornbacker, Tara 6-11
Hostetler, Josih 10-23
Hostetter, Julie......................9-1
Hostetter, Pearl 11-2
Houff, Rebekah 7-1
House, Daniel 10-2
Hurst, Tom 1/2-24, 5-7, 6-
Hyde, Crystal 9-
Ilyes, Charles..........................9-2
Ingold, Roger 5-
Inhauser, Marcos......................3-
Jehnsen, David 1/2-5, 6-
Jiménez, Orlando Antonio.........4-
Jobe, Forest 8-1
Johnson, Bob..........................3-2
Jones, Kathi.........................1/2-
Jones, Kay 8-1
Jones, Phil...........................1/2-
Joseph, Karl...........................4-2
Judy, Roy and Jean...................4-
Kachime, Junko 3-
Kagarise, Leon 5-
Karpenske, Jack......................9-1
Keeney, Ben..........................11-2
Keeney, G. Martin 4-1
Keeney, Merv 1/2-20, 3-
.........3-27, 4-6, 7-21, 8-21, 10-

INDEX 2000

eim, George 1/2-10
eller, Arlene Schlosser 10-5
ellerman, Kristi 10-9
ensinger, Jan 9-19
eyser, Judy 4-7
effaber, Alan 9-11
ester, Russell 12-5
ndy, Cliff 5-7, 6-7, 7-7
ngery, Dennis 12-3
nsel, John 4-8
nzie, Earl 1/2-10
rk, Edie 8-16
emm, Nancy 8-8
rause-Vilmar, Georg 10-15
ristos, Megan 9-0
erematen, Richard 6-18
ndis, Linda 8-20
szakovits, Greg 3-13, 4-7, 5-7, 6-7
wrence, Michael 10-15
eininger, Phyllis 7-11
lan, Carol White 1/2-10
mieux, Napoleon 8-12
mmer, Adam 3-5
nhart, Audrey E. 1/2-9
w, Young June 11-2
pscomb, Corinne 6-25
pton, Dennis 1/2-8, 6-9
ttman, Elsa 4-27
ng, Theodore 6-5
ngenecker, David 10-9
omis, Andrew J. 3-24
alone, Sarah Q. 7-5
ambula, Jabani P. 9-4
artin, Donna Ritchey 9-14
artin-Adkins, Myra 8-7
artinez, Justine 6-25
ason, Nancy 8-20
ason, Steve 5-9
atteson, Erin 6-12
ayer, Robin Wentworth 7-26
cCauliff, Linda 1/2-5, 4-8
cCleer, Daisy 8-12
cCoy, Bo 8-3
cCoy, Meade and Velma 4-3
cCullough, John L. 11-8
cDaniel, Lucille and Alton 4-4
cDearmon, Scott 10-22
cFadden, Dan 3-8, 7-12
cFadden, Wendy 3-7, 8-10, 11-14
cKibben, Dixie 10-18
etzler, Harold 7-12
iller, Beth 9-12
iller, Carol 5-10
iller, David 5-7
iller, Donald 1/2-4
iller, James 3-6
iller, Martha L. 6-5
iller, Norma 4-27
iller, Rex 1/2-23, 9-8
ishler, Cheryl 10-3
itchell, Belita 9-16
itchell, Glenn 11-17
itchell, Helen 9-5
ock, Ruth and Clair 7-4
ohler, Harold 3-4
orphew, Beth Sollenberger 11-27
orris, Samantha 4-23
oyer, Rita 8-1
Moyer, Claude 8-16
Mumma, Emily 1/2-16, 5-10, 9-10
Murphy, Rita 5-11
Murray, Andy 1/2-24, 4-9
Murray, Dorothy G. 11-4
Myer, James 9-11, 10-8
Myers, Carl and Doreen 11-28
Myers, Donald 6-5
Naff, Jerry 5-4, 11-6
Neff, Robert A. 4-8, 11-30
Neher, Ken 6-7, 10-17
Nelson, Marilyn 9-7
Nichol, Larry 9-12
Noffsinger, Debra 3-7
Noffsinger, Jill 10-23
Noffsinger, Stan 1/2-9, 11-8
Nogle, Joel 9-16
Nolen, Wil 10-7
Nolen, Heather 3-17
Olivencia, Nate 4-8
Oltman, Berwyn L. 10-19
Osborne, Gary 9-3
Page, M. Therese 8-20
Palsgrove, Ed and Chris 6-24
Parker, Don 11-16
Petry, Caroll M. 11-27
Petry, Larry 3-3
Petry, Margie 1/2-10, 7-6, 8-5
Petty, Marie 7-3
Phillips, Violet 9-5
Pittman, Marianne 4-8, 11-6
Poling, Edward 9-13
Portela, Beth 3-12
Powers, F. Willard 3-4
Pratt, Mary Elizabeth 6-5
Puffenberger, Bill 7-3
Race, Denise 1/2-10
Radcliff, David 6-24, 7-1, 7-3, 7-12, 11-16
Ragnjiya, Toma 12-6
Reed, Virginia Cunningham 7-5
Regier, Rosella Wiens 8-10
Reimer, Judy Mills 1/2-16, 4-6, 6-5, 7-10, 9-6, 9-20, 12-6
Reinacher, Peggy 4-2
Remnant, Kelly 11-3
Rensberger, Dan 9-13
Replogle, Shawn 6-7
Reyes, Sebastian 4-6
Reyes, David 9-14
Rhoades, Amy 1/2-3, 4-17
Rhodes, Beth 8-6, 10-21
Rhudy, Curtis 1/2-5
Ricardo, Hilcias 4-14
Richard, Wesley and Sue 1/2-4
Richer, Linda 8-4
Rittenhouse, David 10-8
Rogers, David L 4-8
Romero, Gilbert 5-6, 6-7, 9-14
Ronk, Patricia 4-8
Ross, Jimmy 4-8, 11-29
Roth, Paul 6-13
Royer, Daniel 8-7, 9-9
Ruun, Haruun 9-32
Satterlee, Alma 8-15
Satvedi, Violet Anet 3-4
Sayler, Barbara 10-8
Schaudel, Stephanie 7-3
Schrock, Jan West 11-5
Schrock, Roger 8-24
Sewell, Ernie 4-7
Shaffer, Ken 6-19, 9-23
Shank, Mary Jacoby 6-21
Shankster, Owen 11-4
Shartner, Ellen 11-21
Sheller, Meghan 8-7
Shetler, David 1/2-220
Shively, Jonathan 3-7, 8-8
Shriver, Ron 6-24
Shumate, Donna 1/2-5
Sisco, Richard 10-20
Sloan, Mark 4-8
Smeltzer, Ken Kline 10-6
Smith, Allan and Vercey 1/2-3
Smith, Jeanne Jacoby 6-21
Smith, Sid 1/2-10
Snyder, Leonard and Mable 8-5
Sollenberger, David 3-6, 3-8, 11-30
Spire, Ron and Shirley 10-9
Sprinkle, Patti 6-22
Starkey, Patrick 1/2-21
Steiner, Duane 1/2-6
Stephey, Dion 10-23
Stern, Mike and Katie 10-6
Stiles, Robert 4-23
Stocksdale, Paul and Cynthia 4-2, 7-2, 9-1
Stoddart, Tracy 7-10, 11-9
Stoltzfus, Joyce 11-4
Sweitzer, Erica 4-5
Termkunanon, Orapan 3-5
Thakor, Ernest 8-24
Thomas, Chet 7-12
Thompson, Jan 12-7
Timmons, Glenn 6-1, 11-12
Tomlonson, John and Veva 10-5
Townsend, Frances 10-6
Traughber, Earl 11-6
Trausch, Laura 8-8
Troeger, Thomas 1/2-6, 9-14
Tutu, Desmond 5-8
Tyler, Rick 1/2-10
Ullery, Catherine 9-12
Ulrich, Dale and Claire 1/2-21
Utz, Harley and Sylvia 8-5
Van Meter, Tim 5-7
Wade, Clinton 5-4
Wagner, Miriam Longenecker 5-3
Walker, Jerry 8-15
Walker, Lydia 1/2-9, 1/2-27
Waltersdorff, Christy 7-7, 8-24, 10-21
Wampler, Guy Jr. 6-9
Westfall, Randall 10-21
Wicks, Dale and Ruth 8-5
Williams, Ashley and Amy 10-4
Williams, Flora 4-5
Wiltschek, Walt 1/2-11, 4-2
Wine, David 9-7
Witter, Ruby 11-28
Wooten, Eddie 1/2-5
Wright, Lani 3-7
Yaconelli, Mark 3-8
Yelinek, Prue 11-26
Yoder, Marisa 4-21
Yoder, Randy 5-11
York, Verle and Eva 8-5
Yost, Kelsey 11-3
Young, Andrew 1/2-10, 7-6
Young, David S. 3-20, 5-20
Ziegler, Earl 6-4

SUBJECTS

Anniversaries, church 4-4, 6-5, 7-4, 9-5, 10-5, 11-4
Annual Conference 1/2-6, 3-7, 4-8, 5-10, 6-13, 9-10, 10-9
Archives 9-22
Association of Brethren Caregivers 5-9, 6-9, 12-7
Balkans 3-22
Belize 4-19
Bethany Theological Seminary 1/2-10, 1/2-16, 1/2-20, 6-9, 6-11, 8-9
Bible 5-14, 12-16
Bible study 1/2-32, 3-5
Boy Scouts 7-32, 10-26
Brazil 3-6
Brethren Volunteer Service 1/2-9, 1/2–11, 3-7, 8-5, 9-5, 11-9, 11-36
Brethren Revival Fellowship 6-3, 9-21, 10-8, 11-6
Brethren Historical Library and Archives 9-22
Brethren Colleges Abroad 3-8, 9-9
Brethren Benefit Trust 7-7, 10-7
Brethren Service Center 8-6, 11-8
Camp Mack 4-26
Camps, camping 1/2-22, 4-26, 7-6, 7-9, 8-9, 10-3, 10-17
Childcare, disaster 1/2-26, 4-8
China 10-10, 12-18
Chinese Brethren 10-10, 12-18
Christian Citizenship Seminar 6-23
Church planting 11-6
Civil rights 4-5
Cross-Cultural Ministries Team 6-8
Death penalty 3-10, 5-30, 7-29, 8-28
Death Row Support Project 3-10
Death 4-32
Debt relief 3-14, 6-6
Depression 4-10
Dominican Republic 4-6, 4-14, 6-14, 11-4, 11-7
Easter 4-24
Elizabethtown College 9-9
Emergency Disaster Fund 1/2-9, 3-6, 4-9, 5-7, 6-9
Environment 4-19, 5-9
Evangelism 7-25, 10-2, 11-33, 34
Family 1/2-25, 10-18
Fellowship of Brethren Homes 8-8, 8-17
Forgiveness 6-32, 8-28
General Board 4-7, 5-2, 5-6, 9-6, 9-20, 12-6
Germantown Trust 6-18
Global Food Crisis Fund 5-7, 6-9
Grandchildren 10-18
Guatemala 4-19
Habitat for Humanity 3-4
Haiti 4-17
Hebron 7-22
Homes and retirement communities 8-8, 8-12, 10-27
Honduras 7-12, 8-7, 9-21
Hymnal 3-7
India 8-21, 10-7, 10-8, 12-8
Iraq 7-3
Israel 12-10
Japan 3-3
John Kline 11-10
Jubilee 2000 3-14
Juniata College 3-8
Kosovo 3-22
Leadership 1/2-11, 6-8
Love feast 6-1
Mack, Alexander 6-20
Manchester College 7-8
McPherson College 1/2-10
Medicine 5-24, 4-14
Membership 7-7, 7-24
Mental illness 4-10, 6-27
Middle East 7-22
Military 1/2-8
Ministry Summer Service 8-6, 10-20
Ministry 1/2-12-16, 4-6, 4-29, 8-6, 10-20
National Older Adult Conference 4-8, 11-28
National Council of Churches 1/2-17
Nicaragua 7-3, 9-7
Nigeria 1/2-20, 5-8, 5-28, 9-4, 9-6
Nonviolence 6-4, 10-9
On Earth Peace Assembly 1/2-24, 5-9, 9-8, 10-8, 12-8
One Great Hour of Sharing 3-25
Palestinians 12-10
Peace 12-20
Pension plan 1/2-3
Politics 10-32, 12-20
Race relations 4-4, 8-32, 9-3, 10-29
Renewal 3-18, 7-27
Resurrection 4-1
Servant leadership 3-19
Shepherd's Spring 1/2-22, 6-29
Song and Story Fest 10-8
Spirituality 1/2-4, 3-8, 3-18, 4-24, 4-26, 5-20, 9-3, 11-2, 11-12
Sudan 3-6, 5-14, 7-8, 9-32, 11-33
Sunday school 8-10
Tijuana, Mexico 11-36
Vieques, Puerto Rico 5-7, 6-7, 7-7
Violence 1/2-3, 5-8
Women 1/2-12-16
Worshipful-Work 1/2-5, 6-1, 6-10, 9-11, 11-16
Young adults 3-9, 5-9, 8-8
Youth 5-9, 6-7, 6-8, 6-23, 9-8, 11-8, 11-21, 12-7

> "I think most Brethren would agree that we do have something special to offer to people searching for meaning and purpose in an increasingly hedonistic and materialistic society."

Evangelism: Off the hook

I found Wendy McFadden's October column of real interest, and I agreed with most of it. She expressed the ambivalence of the Brethren toward evangelism quite well, and her view that "evangelism isn't in the Brethren DNA" is a good one.

But she lets the Brethren off too easily. Past failures are no excuse for present and future negligence. Every denomination has diversity, but we need not use that as an excuse to do nothing.

She speaks of a "form of evangelism that unifies rather than divides us." Brethren love to be intellectual and theological, and the church seems more concerned about what it means to "be Brethren" than what it means to be a Christian.

There are plenty of models out there for proclaiming the word of God, and what the church needs to do is choose one and try, then choose another and try, and keep trying. Hospitality and relationship are aspects of evangelism, but it is not where the hard work is done. Unhappily, you give every congregation something to justify their inaction and indifference. Brethren can sit back and talk about hospitality and relationship, but they need to put their shoulder to the plow if they are to see any crops from the field of outreach. O they can accept their fate as an increasingly marginalized church, living on past successes, self-absorbed, and diminishing in influence and numbers.

Brethren will continue to toss around the "concept" of evangelism at meetings and Annual Conferences, intellectualize it to death, and do nothing. That is not my idea of the Christian faith, of the church alive, of even discipleship.

Ron Keen
Gilbert, Ari

Evangelism: Hit the nail

I'm writing to say Wendy McFadden's column on evangelism in the October issue really hit the nail on the head. I'v never even envisioned it being said better. Thank you for so expressing it and being enough years as a Brethren to be in a position to voice the view.

B.J. Murdo
Fort Dodge,

Evangelism: We don't invite

Wendy McFadden's words in the October issue were both insightful and revealingly truthful on Brethren and evangelism. Having spent 28 years as founding pastor in two new church starts in Drexel Hill, Pa., in 1953, and Cape Coral, Fla., in 1976, I can speak from some of my own personal struggles as we worked at evangelism in those two distinctly different settings. seems, as you suggest, that "it's as if

BrethrenPress.com
This day. 24 hours a day.

> "Unhappily, you give every congregation something to justify their inaction and indifference. Brethren can sit back and talk about hospitality and relationship, but they need to put their shoulder to the plow if they are to see any crops from the field of outreach."

vangelism isn't in the Brethren DNA." 'hat was my feeling exactly. We eemed to feel more comfortable giving ssistance to persons who were hurtng, and stopping there. So often I ound myself, and most in those conregations, being "reluctant vangelists," being unwilling to talk bout the Christ who motivated us to do ne good things we did. We really were ot, most of the time, invitational, invitng some of those same persons to ecome followers of Jesus Christ!

I think most Brethren would agree nat we do have something special to ffer to people searching for meaning nd purpose in an increasingly hedonisc and materialistic society. But how do ve get out the word? Therein do we ave great disagreement. But get out ne word we must, if we are to be faithul to our Lord and our early Brethren ioneers, who at great personal sacrice but deep commitment to the Great ommission, went to China, Africa, ndia, Ecuador, and other places, to hare the Good News of Jesus Christ.

"Do the Brethren really want to do vangelism?" Wendy asks. I wonder vhat would happen if 130,000 Brethren esponded with a resounding "YES!" Ve might actually have a revival!

Donald H. Shank, pastor
Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren
Elgin, Ill.

vangelism: Teach Jesus

he publisher has some interesting nsights on evangelism, but few answers. To say evangelism "isn't in the Brethren DNA" may mean that in all reality it's more important to teach Brethren heritage, protocol, beliefs, and practices than to teach Jesus. We look for a program or technique that pleases everyone, and not finding it we proclaim it must not be God's will. So let's have a sale and raise money, let's start a credit union, let's send out a missionary, anything but telling my neighbor about Jesus.

True, "hospitality and relationship" are key aspects of church growth, but one can find them at the corner pub or local deli, and often find them with more glee and acceptance than the local church.

The answer is found in the heart of the shepherd. When the shepherd has the heart for the lost sheep, he diligently teaches his flock to reach out. He sets the atmosphere for growth by the soul love he himself is experiencing from his Master. We can blame the building, the age of the saints, the denomination, etc. But if the shepherd is slinging rocks, death is more likely than life. As he allows his flock to know they are loved, cared for, and nurtured, they want to tell others about this Jesus fellow that their pastor is showing them about.

Perhaps the time is at hand to lay down our programs and send all the wasted money instead to help those who need Jesus. We need to quit being so busy being someone in a faceless world, and use the time to talk to some about our Lord.

Jim Powers, pastor
Osceola Church of the Brethren
Osceola, Mo.

Evangelism: Renounce it

Although I have not been a member of the Church of the Brethren for 30 years, my parents still subscribe to MESSENGER for me and I read it with interest. I am writing because of Wendy McFadden's October article on evangelism.

What disappoints me most in the Church of the Brethren is the absence of a contemplative tradition. There is no instruction in meditation or emphasis on personal spiritual development. Currently I find spiritual fulfillment as a Zen Buddhist and I am training to be a priest.

Meditation does not devalue service, but is a good way to better develop the compassionate wisdom to be serviceful. It also helps a person to drop the barriers that perpetuate a sense of me / you, which brings me to my main point. Evangelism is not service. It implies an arrogance toward your neighbor, "I know what is best for you," and it exhibits a lack of trust. It brings up the subject of faith. People who are not well-grounded in an abiding faith look outside of themselves to find fulfillment. This often takes the form of evangelism.

There are two Zen phrases that come to mind. One is, "Trust in the unknown." The second is, "Not knowing is most intimate." I will not comment on these. They speak for themselves.

There is much that is good about the Church of the Brethren: service, community, and opposition to war. If, however, the church wants to reinvigorate its membership, I hope it will renounce evangelism and seek more real, fulfilling ways, such as meditation.

Terry Rothrock
Yucca Valley, Calif.

Displaced Brethren needs a home

I am a displaced Brethren, about 35 to 40 miles from a Church of the Brethren congregation. In the past, I have been very active in both local churches and the Southern Plains District. Since moving to Tulsa, I have been feeling so alone. I have not been able to go to the nearest church because of health reasons, but I feel so incomplete. I have always taught Sunday school, churned out a newsletter, and even filled in at the pulpit when necessary. I have written since I was a preteen, but at this time, I seem to have no outlet.

This really isn't a pity letter. I just want to know how I can feel useful to the denomination again. I serve the Lord, but I want to serve in the church, also. To become connected again, at this time in my life, would be wonderful. Can you advise me on what to do?

Susan Johnson
Kiefer, Okla.
dotnsue@aol.com

> "Whenever I hear the name Brethren whether it be connected to our church or in song or other reference, it conveys a meaning of a group of people coming together with a common purpose. And our purpose as Brethren is to live, love, and serve the way the Lord has commanded us to."

Like the name Brethren

I guess I might be in the minority but I happen to like and embrace the name Church of the Brethren. Even though the Webster dictionary does refer to it as meaning "a group of men," it has never given me that impression. Whenever I hear the name Brethren, whether it be connected to our church or in song or other reference, it conveys a meaning of a group of people coming together with a common purpose. And our purpose as Brethren is to live, love, and serve the way the Lord has commanded us to.

When I first came to the Manassas Church of the Brethren 19 years ago, one of the things I liked was the name. It portrayed to me a group of people that felt a deep commitment to Christ and to His people. My husband and I have raised our two children to be Brethren and I am proud when I tell people I belong to the Church of the Brethren.

Susan C. Harri
Manassas Church of the Brethre
Manassas, Va

CLASSIFIEDADS

Chaplain and Director of Religious Life: Department of College Life—Elizabethtown College invites applications and nominations for the position of Chaplain and Director of Religious Life. This is a full-time, 10-month position. Master's degree and/or Seminary training required; terminal degree desirable. Position available 8/01/01. For detailed information of responsibilities and instructions to apply visit our website. www.etown.edu/humanresources/opportunities.htm. Nancy Florey, Director of Human Resources, Elizabethtown College, One Alpha Drive, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

Christian Family Practice group is seeking a family physician and/or a physician extender (PA-C or RN-FNP) to join our growing practice. We are located in North Central Indiana, near Goshen. We provide obstetrics with many deliveries done at an Amish Birthing Center near Shipshewana. Opportunities for short- or long-term missions. Independently owned (six physicians & one PA) and committed to remaining sensitive to the needs of the local community. Option to buy in. Contact Steve Wendler, Administrator, at Middlebury Family Physicians, PO Box 459, Middlebury, IN 46540. Day telephone: 219-825-2900 Evening: 219-825-7506.

Executive Director for COBYS Family Services, an agency of the Atlantic Northeast District. Programs include Foster Care, Adoption, Teen Mother and Child Group Home, Counseling and Parent Education. Graduate degree required; MSW preferred. Should have experience in the human service setting. Supervisory and/or administrative experience required. Send resume by December 31, 2000 to Search committee, COBYS Family Services, 1417 Oregon Road, Leola, PA 17540.

Job announcement. Iowa Peace Network, a peace and justice organization affiliated with the Brethren, Mennonite, Quaker and United Methodist churches, is seeking a full-time coordinator. Responsibilities include publishing Dovetail newsletter, programming, networking, and administration/fund-raising. Salary: $15,600 per year, plus a modest health stipend. EOE Job-sharing couples are encouraged to apply. Direct inquires to: Search Committee Russ Leckband, 1916 Bear Creek Road, Earlham, IA 50072. Applications due: November 27, 2000 or until position is filled.

Travel with a purpose—TWO TOURS. (1) "CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION" Featuring—Crossing the Red Sea, St. Catherine Monastery on Mt. Sinai, Petra and the Holy Land. March 16-29, 2001. **(2) "ROYAL HOLIDAY"** Featuring—The Britis Isles. Visiting: England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. July 24 - August 8, 2001. Wendell and Joa Bohrer, 8520 Royal Meadow Drive, Indianapolis, II 46217. Tel/fax 317-882-5067. E-mail rdwboh@aol.con

Escape the cold, and come to the sun! You ar invited to be a part of a large, enthusiastic Brethre congregation in Sebring, Florida, winter home t people of many denominations. We offer excitin worship services and a rich fellowship, and also a opportunity to participate in our Annual Bible Conference in January; golf outings; bus trips to loca attractions. We can help you find accommodation if necessary. Call 863-385-1597, or write Pastor Cec Hess at 700 S. Pine St., Sebring, FL 33870.

Linking caring Americans with needy childrer their families and communities in the developin world. Western PA District COB Mission Progran with 20 years experience operating a child sponsorship program, is now partnering with Internation Christian Aid supporting orphanages and child educational programs in Honduras, Nicaragua and developing program in India. We need you. For on $25 per month you can sponsor a child. For information contact International Christian Aid, 115 Sprin Rd., Hollsopple, PA 15935 or phone 814-479-796

This month's Turning Points ncludes all listings received prior to 10/24/00 not previously published.

New members

Ambler, Pa.: Luke Bauerlein, Ilya Kononchuk

Antioch, Rocky Mount, Va.: Jeff Callahan, Rochelle Callahan

Bethany, Greenwood, Del.: Judy Nalley, Amy Jo Roberts, Kyle Roberts, Jacob Hochstedler, Jonas Hochstedler, Rachel Maezis, Garrett Slater, Andrew Layton, Lori Williams, Mike Massey, Mary Massey

Brandts, Saint Thomas, Pa.: Lynn Frey, Mike Heckman, Benjamin Hostetter, Candy McCauley, Joshuah McCauley, Cody Rhodes, Darwin Grove

Broadfording, Hagerstown, Md.: Terry Ballam, Joan Ballam, Kevin Ballam, Dale Binkley, Rebecca Burkett, Phyllis Carter, Betty Coursey, RaeAnn Ebersole, Kyle Graybill, Debra High, Kirk Mullenix, Tammy Poper, Philena Powell, Sally Stephen

Broadwater, Essex, Mo.: Cynthia Sanders, Cliff Jolliff, Charlotte Jolliff

Cabool, Mo.: Roger Schrock, Carolyn Schrock, Arnold Larson, Russelle Rust, Jammie Russell, Lynn Larson.

Central, Roanoke, Va.: Taylor Bryant, Wendy Bryant, Tommy Bryant, Jr., Brianna Gallatin, Harry Gallatin, Taylor Cornwall, Dana Jamison

Chiques, Manheim, Pa.: Natsha Shenk, Karen Weatherbie, Chris Weatherbie, Marian Brandt, Jamie Shaffer, Dave Groff, Rosene Groff, John Hampton, Tracy Hampton, Jon Slothour, Jerry Long, Jason Sauder, Jessica Sauder, Charis Haldeman, Zachary Hosler, Ashley Kreider, Zachary Nowland

Coventry, Pottstown, Pa.: Beth Bush, Ashley Randle

Dupont, Ohio: Mark Webb, Jeff Prowant, Kelli Prowant, JoEllen Fickel, Don McKibben, Jean McKibben

Enders, Neb.: Joel Grosbach, Stephanie Spady, Emily Spady

Glade Valley, Walkersville, Md.: Dennis Hoffman, Lorraine Hoffman

mperial Heights, Los Angeles, Calif.: Judy Patterson, Linda Patterson, Claiborne Patterson, Janet Tyler, Norman Wilson

ndependence, Kan.: Brian B. Bourbina, Jannett L. Bourbina, Martha J. Burns, Terry A. Burns, Arlene Newton

Markle, Ind.: Shanna Lipp, Jennifer O'Reilly

Panther Creek, Roanoke, Ill.: Stacy Baize Yordy

Pleasant Dale, Decatur, Ind.: Kathy Smith

Rayman, Friedens, Pa.: Gary Baumgardner, Amy Baumgardner, Josie Baumgardner, Jill Baumgardner, Mike Berkebile, Debbie Berkebile, Lisa Berkebile, Jennifer Waronek, Elwood Yoder, Sherry Yoder, Joe Yoder, Annette Yoder, Church Mahon, Ruth Mahon, Chuckie Mahon, Tom Fitzgerald, Carol Fitzgerald, Tom Shepherd, Tonya Shepherd

Ridge, Shippensburg, Pa.: Jeff Shughart, Betsy Shughart, Karen Goss, Timothy Clark, Kelly Clark, Jodi Helm, Joey Smith, Beth Smith, Terry Jones, Angie Jones, Paul Aikman

Sugar Ridge, Custer, Mich.: Angie Mickevich

Trinity, Blountville, Tenn.: Larry Fritts, Betsy Fritts, Geoffrey Fritts, Jeremy Fritts, Ernest Hyde, Anna Hyde, Pete Roudebush, Martha Roudebush

West Milton, Ohio: Angela Winterbotham, Phillip DeAngulo, Brian Niswonger

Wedding anniversaries

Becker, Raymond and Florence, Troy, Ohio, 60

Burton, Leo and June, Roanoke, Va., 50

Cheek, Earl and Mary, Sebring, Fla., 60

Floyd, Dick and Juanita, Roanoke, Va., 60

Foor, J. Clifford and Naomi, Curryville, Pa., 55

Fyock, Wayne and Joy, Windber, Pa., 50

Garst, Paul and Doris, Roanoke, Va., 50

Gomis, Paul and Helen, Des Moines, Iowa, 50

Gottshall, Dick and Dottie, Roanoke, Va., 55

Hamilton, David and Velma, Virden, Ill., 72

Heisey, Sam and Dorothy, Lancaster, Pa., 60

Holtry, Bruce and Naomi, Shippensburg, Pa., 50

Hoover, Charles and Elizabeth, Goshen, Ind., 55

Kepler, Don and Ruth, Pitsburg, Ohio, 50

Koons, Carroll and Vera, Des Moines, Iowa, 50

Leininger, Norman and Mae, Manheim, Pa., 70

McKinstry, Frank and Mabel, Sebring, Fla., 55

Muck, Charles and Mary, Waynesboro, Pa., 60

Nelson, Gerald and Rosella, Sebring, Fla., 60

Pfierman, Floyd and Rebekah, Garrett, Ind., 60

Riner, Aubrey & Frances, Fayetteville, W.Va., 50

Schell, Delmer and Eileen, Scherr, W.Va., 50

Shenk, Layser and Elizabeth, Manheim, Pa., 60

Townsend, George and Evelyn, Des Moines, Iowa, 65

Weldy, Dale and AnnaBelle, Elkhart, Ind., 50

Deaths

Bahr, Ilah Mae, 73, Copemish, Mich., Sept. 12

Bickel, Harry H., 85, Pottstown, Pa., July 9

Brightbill, Hiram J., 92, Cleona, Pa., Oct. 14

Brubaker, Joyce, 76, La Verne, Calif., Aug. 3

Brumbaugh, Averie E., 94, Kent, Ohio, Oct. 8

Bucher, Esther, 91, Palmyra, Pa., Oct. 12

Buirley, Cliff, 82, Troy, Ohio, Sept. 21

Clague, Juanita "Pat" Simmons, 72, Harrisonburg, Va., Sept. 21

Clemens, Matilda, 80, Hatfield, Pa., July 18

Clinefelter, Ralph, 88, West Milton, Ohio, Feb. 6

Cost, Elsie, 91, Troy, Ohio, Sept. 24

Davidson, Stephen Dale, 51, Virden, Ill., Aug. 2

Davis, Janice, 47, Gray, Tenn., March 24

Deardorff, Dollie, 95, Flora, Ind., July 27

Deeter, Bill, 94, Greenville, Ohio, Aug. 15

Dellinger, Forrest Owen, 78, Mount Jackson, Va., Aug. 23

Douglas, Artemisa, 92, Johnson City, Tenn., March 1

Driver, Ethel, 83, Staunton, Va., Sept. 5

Eaton, Evelyn Knopp, 90, Harrisonburg, Va., Sept. 21

Ferguson, Earl, 83, Tucson, Ariz., Sept. 10

Fifer, William Edward, 88, Mount Solon, Va., Sept. 3

Finkbiner, Winfield, 89, Lebanon, Pa., Aug. 13

Flora, Russell, Jr., 72, Tipp City, Ohio, Sept. 4

Ford, James, 98, McPherson, Kan., Oct. 14

Foust, Alice K., 79, New Oxford, Pa., Aug. 15

Fox, Kirby Luther, Jr., 68, Stanley, Va., Sept. 4

Gahagan, Harry, Chambersburg, Pa., Sept. 15

Gettel, Robert, 84, Shippensburg, Pa., July 31

Gift, Tillie, 86, Waynesboro, Pa., April 16

Glenn, Anne, 65, Waynesboro, Pa., Aug. 22

Good, George, 65, Prescott, Mich., Aug. 4

Good, Samuel C., 73, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 23

Grant, Mabel, 83, Roanoke, Va., May 6

Green, Shelby, 73, Boones Mill, Va., Sept. 16

Hanley, Carrie, 91, Ogden, Iowa, Oct. 17

Heishman, Nettie Virginia, 93, Strasburg, Va., Aug. 3

Hershberger, Neva, 87, Davidsville, Pa., Sept. 7

Hoover, Vergie Stoneburner, 102, Woodstock, Va., Sept. 11

Hutts, Emelyn, 86, Roanoke, Va., Feb. 12

James, Violet, 86, Roanoke, Va., Aug. 12

LaSalle, Carol Ann, 66, Baker, W.Va., Aug. 22

Layman, Mervyl A., 85, Harrisonburg, Va., Oct. 5

Lininger, Blanche, 104, La Verne, Calif., Sept. 28

Linn, Grace, 74, Shippensburg, Pa., June 23

Lutz, Russell, 93, Greenville, Ohio, Oct. 4

McKee, Verda, 80, Dayton, Ohio, Aug. 17

Meador, Mary, 88, Roanoke, Va. Aug. 6

Mentzer, Buford, 72, Waynesboro, Pa., Feb. 8

Miller, Ava, 81, Roanoke, Va., Sept. 28

Miller, Harvey, Jr., 82, Smithsburg, Md., Oct. 3

Nunemaker, Bernadette, 61, May 30

Pentz, Betty, 73, Waynesboro, Pa., July 28

Rotruck, Dorsey, 92, McPherson, Kan., Oct. 3

Royer, Robert H., 82, Carlisle, Pa., Sept. 20

Ruckman, Charles Wright, 77, Mathias, W.Va., Sept. 18

Schnepp, Elsie, 82, Beaverton, Mich., Sept. 23

See, Roland Craig, 47, Petersburg, W.Va., Sept. 17

Shade, Peggy, 61, Waynesboro, Pa., July 10

Shaffer, Margaret E., 82, Chester Springs, Pa., Aug. 28

Spangler, Mildred, 78, Waynesboro, Pa., Aug. 7

Steigerwalt, Lois G., 89, Ashland, Ohio, Oct. 10

Weagley, Mary, 77, Feb. 18

Ordinations

Blough, Lester Junior, Sept. 24, Syracuse, Ind.

Burk, Kelly, Oct. 8, Westminster, Md.

Cary, Jack Lee, Sept. 17, Osceola, Ind.

Collins, John Wayne, Sept. 24, First, Pulaski, Va.

Ober, Barbara, Sept. 10, Live Oak, Calif.

Spry, Charles Gregory, Sept. 10, Union, Plymouth, Ind.

Pastoral placement

Beasley, Sterling Ray, to pastor, Fostoria, Ohio, April 30

Bendes, Mark Steven, from pastor, Salamonie, Warren, Ind., to pastor, Somerset, Pa., Oct. 1

Betz, Russell Warren, from pastor, First, Phoenix, Ariz., to pastor, Waterford, Calif., Oct. 22

Burk, Kelly, from associate pastor to pastor, Richmond, Ind., Oct. 15

Christophel, Sandford J., from pastor, Bradford, Ohio, to pastor, Coventry, Pottstown, Pa., Oct. 1

Deardorff, Timothy J., to pastor, Pyrmont, Delphi, Ind., Sept. 1

Den Hartog, Benson, to pastor, Worthington, Reading, Minn., Aug. 15

Doss, Martin Clay, from pastor, Blue Ridge, Va., to pastor, Fairview, Mount Clinton, Harrisonburg, Va., Oct. 1

Gehr, G. Douglas, from pastor, Uniontown, Pa., to pastor, Pottstown, Pa., Oct. 19

Hammond, Todd, from pastor, Waynesboro, Va., to pastor for special ministries, Oakland, Bradford, Ohio, Sept. 5

Hayhurst William E., from interim pastor to pastor, Hopewell, Va., April 16

Hileman, Michael C., to associate pastor, Kent, Ohio, April 30

Hurst, Thomas E., from executive director, On Earth Peace Assembly, New Windsor, Md., to pastor, Downsville, Williamsport, Md., Oct. 2

Longenecker, David L., from associate district executive, Atlantic Northeast District, to pastor, Myerstown, Pa., Sept. 1

Murphy, Granville, to associate pastor, New Hope, Seymour, Ind., Sept. 1

Norris, Victor S., from pastor, Center Hill, Kittanning, Pa. to pastor, Shippensburg, Pa., Sept. 24

Paterson, Harry J., to pastor, Longmeadow, Hagerstown, Md., Oct. 1

Pennington, R. Wayne, from interim pastor to pastor, Bethel, Arrington, Va., July 2

Remillet, Charles, to pastor, Buffalo, Ind., March 19

Roop, Calvin M., from pastor, Valley Pike, Maurertown, Va. to pastor, Schuylkill, Pine Grove, Pa., Sept. 1

Sgro, John A., II, from pastor of special ministries, Sebring, Fla., to youth pastor, Pleasant Dale, Decatur, Ind., June 4

Shively, Jonathan Adin, from pastor, Pomona Fellowship, Pomona, Calif. to director, Brethren Academy, Richmond, Ind., Sept. 1

Simmons, Keith, from pastor, Bethlehem, Boones Mill, Va., to pastor, Agape, Fort Wayne, Ind., Oct. 1

Starkey, Earl Patrick, to pastor, Ninth Street, Roanoke, Va., Sept. 1

Wagenaar, Marlene, to minister of Christian nurture, South Waterloo, Waterloo, Iowa, Sept. 1

Mystery at Seneca Rocks

My mystical journey to West Virginia began two years ago in a shop that sells old postcards in the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco. There I was drawn to a card with an old tinted picture of forested slopes and a big rock formation. On the back was a place for a one-cent stamp and the legend, "Seneca Rocks, 900 feet high, on US Route 5, near Elkins, W.Va." I bought it.

At home I consulted the *Yearbook* and was delighted to find there is a Church of the Brethren congregation at Elkins, knowledge I filed away, hoping for a further connection sometime. Then this year I volunteered for the project organized by the General Board's Office of Ministry to send staff members into districts to listen to pastors' concerns. I was asked if I wanted to go to West Marva District. Eyeing my old postcard, I said of course.

A lifelong flatlander, I had never been to this part of the country, whose late-October beauty captivated me. From Cumberland, Md., fellow General Board staffer Lester Boleyn and I set out in his pickup across the Potomac River and back, winding through hills and hollers to three gatherings of pastors that weekend. Surely God would never want to flatten this place, but it must have been in reference to Allegheny topography that Isaiah wrote of God's power to transform:

"Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed" (Isa. 40:4,5).

Listening to pastors in the West Marva District convinced me they must have deep faith to keep going in an idolatrous world. We asked the pastors what discourages them. Not surprisingly, it is when people in their congregations "don't come through." They become discouraged when young adults drift away, when members backslide, or when school sports take priority over church events.

What encourages them? It is when their people "get it." Seeing lives transformed by faith makes their vocation worthwhile. Helping people come to Christ gives them energy. Watching a congregation capture a vision is exciting. Calling people to the ministry renews pastors.

There were no contentious issues in these discussions, no theological disagreements aired or criticisms offered. It was as though we were all in this predicament together, trying to lead people to Christ, happy when they get there, disappointed when they don't.

"All people are grass," writes Isaiah (40:6-8), "their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever."

At one stop, a church member asked about the denomination's position on ordination of homosex als. I merely provided the answer sought, without getting into my views on the subject, which may ha differed, at least on the surface, from the views of t person asking the question. Had we had a chance t get to know each other, we may have learned we share a common concern for how homosexual Chr tians are welcomed into the body of Christ, or how homosexual members of our own families are treat by a hostile world. Whole denominations are fighti to resolve issues of homosexuality, getting nowhere while positions harden. There are times to leave big issues in God's hands, while we build relationships that will help us to spread the love of Christ.

Sunday I made my way south through glorio hills, the trees in muted colors, now two weeks past their autumn prime. I looked down on valle filled with fog like cream soup, while steam rose from mountain lakes warmed by the morning. Inside the Church of the Brethren in Elkins, W. Va., I was welcomed like family. After church I showed around the postcard that brought me he "Oh yes, Seneca Rocks. Part of the formation fe down a few years ago." I got directions and a ki lady led me to the right highway at the edge of town. Thirty miles east I came upon the picturesque Onego Church of the Brethren, where sheep grazed a pasture next to the church parkin lot, still filled with cars after noon. Another mile, and there, looming before me, were the 900-foot sandstone pinnacles of Seneca Rocks.

Inside the visitor center I learned the story of its formation 200 million years ago, and the legend of th Indian princess Snowbird, who challenged suitors to follow her to the top, the one who made it winning h hand. I was intrigued by a more recent event. In October 1987 a 20-ton, 30-foot-high formation known a Chimney Rock, a familiar feature of the Seneca Rock skyline, fell down, smashing into a million pieces.

Before leaving the visitor center I bought a new postcard to go with my old one, which I pulled out an showed to the uniformed guide who waited on me.

He studied the picture. "Interesting," he said. "Chimney Rock isn't there." I looked and he was right. The 30-foot formation that fell down in 1987 wasn't where it should have been in the picture from long before then. I can't explain it, except to read again from Isaiah 40:

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable."—FLETCHER FARRAR

> I made my way south through glorious hills, the trees in muted colors, now two weeks past their autumn prime. I looked down on valleys filled with fog like cream soup, while steam rose from mountain lakes warmed by the morning.

5542

2001 NATIONAL WORKCAMPS

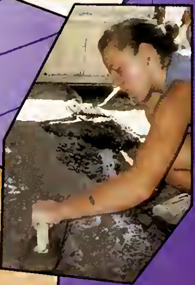
Seeking the Road Less Traveled

SENIOR HIGH

June 16-24	Mendenhall, MS (BRF)
June 17-23	Americus, GA
June 18-24	Harlingen, TX
June 18-25	Puerto Rico
July 8-14	Pine Ridge, SD
July 16-22	Chicago, IL
July 16-22	Keyser, WV
July 23-29	Baltimore, MD
July 23-29	Myrtle Point, OR
July 29-Aug. 4	Spiritual Growth Camp: Camp Mack, IN
July 30-Aug. 5	Crossnore, NC
July 30-Aug. 5	St. Croix, USVI
Aug. 6-12	Bayview, VA(Jr & Sr. High)
Aug. 7-15	Dominican Republic

JUNIOR HIGH

June 25-29	Harrisburg, PA
June 25-29	Indianapolis, IN
July 9-13	Inspiration Center, WI
July 9-13	New Windsor, MD
Aug. 1-5	Washington DC
Aug. 6-12	Bayview, VA(Jr & Sr. High)



YOUNG ADULT

May 31-June 11	Taize, France

For more information, write to:

Luke Croushorn & Jacki Hartley
1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120
cobyouth_gb@brethren.org
1-800-323-8039.
www.brethren.org/genbd/yya

Because He cared

Because you cared

REJOICE

Good Christian Friends Rejoice! with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are bless'd for evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Brethren Friends, Rejoice! with heart and soul and voice!
Work we've done this year is this: fed and preached and tears we kissed.
Care has opened our hearts more, and we are happy to the core.
We were born for this! We were born for this!

Thank You!

From the Church of the Brethren General Board and those we minister with and to,
Your prayers and support this year mean more than you ever dared dream or imagine.

Merry Christmas

Christ be with you today and always Amen.

HOUCHEN
BINDERY LTD
UTICA/OMAHA NE.
2004